4
Higasa Akai
THE
ROYAL
TUTOR

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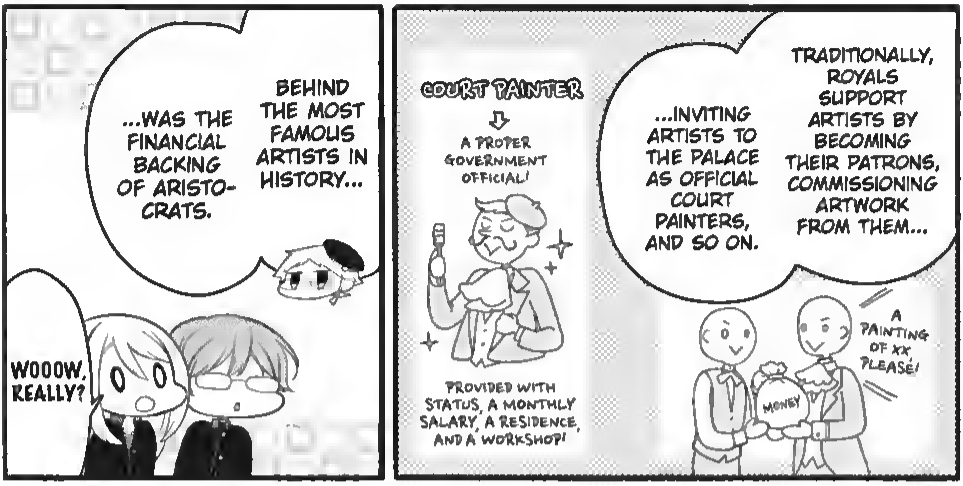
MY APOLOGIES FOR THE WAIT.
WHO CAN SAY?
WHAT WILL HE HAVE US DO FOR THIS GROUP LESSON TODAY, I WONDER.
HEINE!?
DUNDUN
YOUR HIGH-NESSES ...
...DO YOU LIKE ART?
POP
ひょこっ

Chapter 19

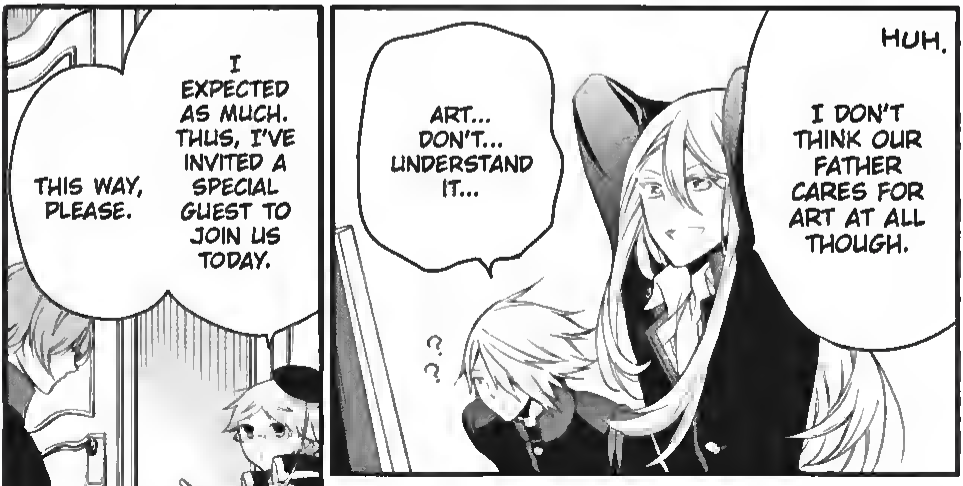
Princes, Take up the Brush!

WOOOW!
THE SUBJECT OF TODAY'S GROUP LESSON...
...IS ART.

A-ART, IS IT?
THEY ARE... BEAUTIFUL PIECES, TO BE SURE, BUT...
OOOH, HOW GRAND!
.....
THIS ONE IS MY PORTRAIT.
WITH THAT SAID..
I BORROWED THESE STUDIES FROM THE COURT PAINTER FOR YOUR PERUSAL.
FRANKLY, ART BORES ME!
IS THERE ANY POINT IN STUDYING IT?
きっぱり
BLUNT
THAT WAS TOO FRANK!
THE ROYAL FAMILY HAS BEEN DEEPLY INTERTWINED WITH THE ART WORLD FOR GENERA-TIONS.
FLIP
FOR A MONARCH, COLLECTING FAMOUS WORKS OF ART IS A SYMBOL OF STATUS.
ART CAN BE OF USE IN MATTERS OF DIPLOMACY AS WELL.


BEHIND THE MOST FAMOUS ARTISTS IN HISTORY...
...WAS THE FINANCIAL BACKING OF ARISTOCRATS.
WOOOW, REALLY?
TRADITIONALLY, ROYALS SUPPORT ARTISTS BY BECOMING THEIR PATRONS, COMMISSIONING ARTWORK FROM THEM...
...INVITING ARTISTS TO THE PALACE AS OFFICIAL COURT PAINTERS, AND SO ON.
A PAINTING OF XX, PLEASE!
MONEY
COURT PAINTER
A PROPER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL!
PROVIDED WITH STATUS, A MONTHLY SALARY, A RESIDENCE, AND A WORKSHOP!

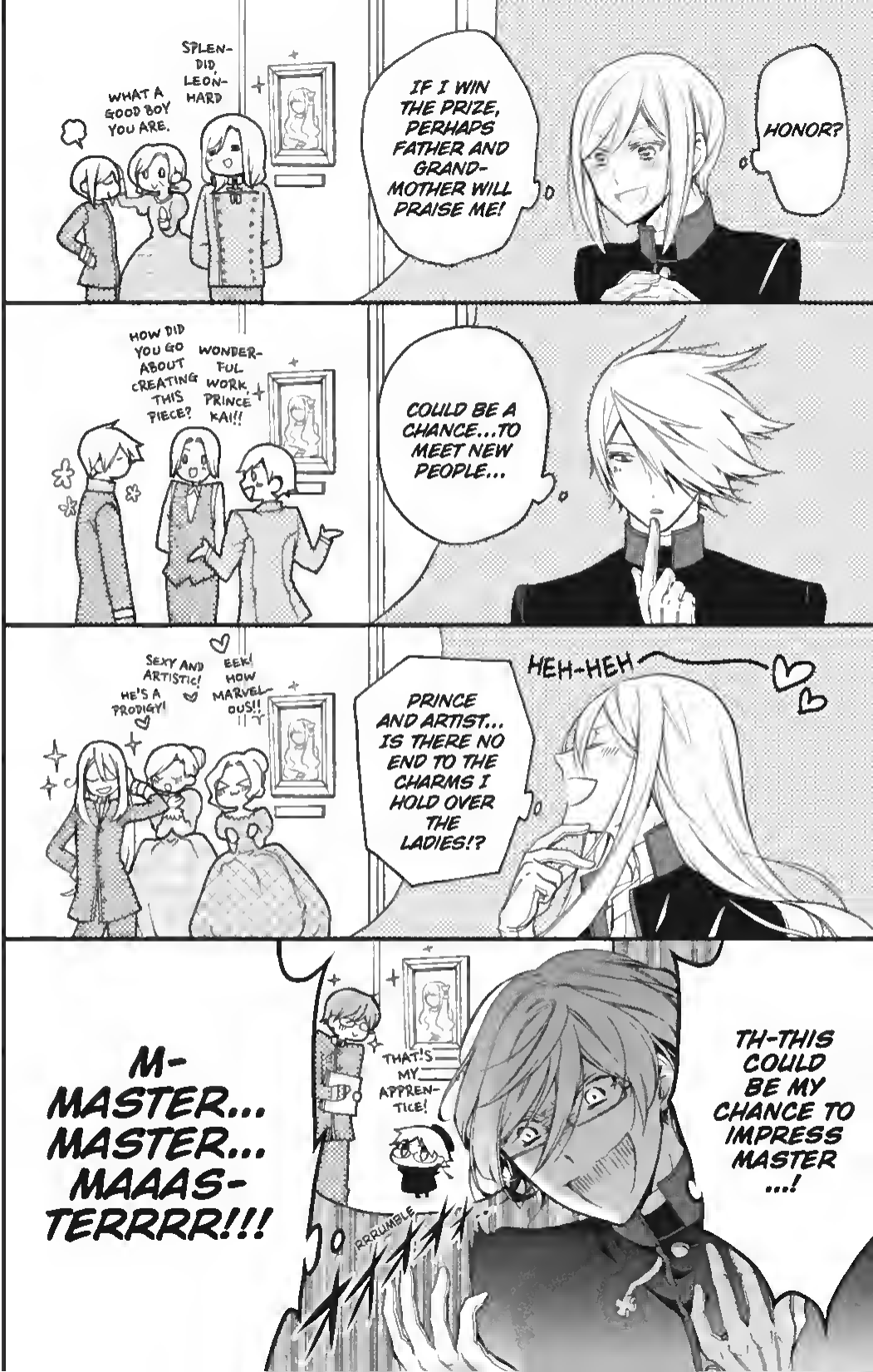
COME TO THINK OF IT, MOST OF THE PIECES ON DISPLAY IN THE NATIONAL ART MUSEUM ARE FROM THE COLLECTION OF A KING WHO REIGNED TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO...
THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO COLLECT ART PURELY OUT OF PERSONAL INTEREST, OF COURSE.
HISTORICAL RECORDS SAY THAT PARTICULAR KING HAD A GREAT LOVE FOR ART.


HUH.
I DON'T THINK OUR FATHER CARES FOR ART AT ALL THOUGH.
ART... DON'T... UNDERSTAND IT...
I EXPECTED AS MUCH. THUS, I'VE INVITED A SPECIAL GUEST TO JOIN US TODAY.
THIS WAY, PLEASE.

BROTH-ERS!
はあ、
GLOW
ADELE!
Whaa!?
LEAP
WHA...?
SHOO! SHOO!
YES, IT IS PRECISELY AS YOU HAVE GUESSED.
AND THESE TOOLS! IS IT THAT...?
M-MASTER, WHY IS ADELE HERE...?
You saw me at break-fast!
ADELE! I MISSED YOU SO!

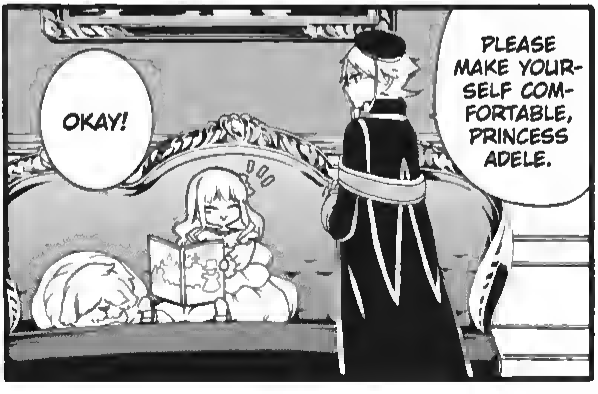
TODAY, IN ORDER TO FOSTER AN APPRECI-ATION FOR ART...
...YOUR HIGH-NESSES WILL EACH DRAW A PORTRAIT OF PRINCESS ADELE.
HUH!?
GEH...
YAY! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THEM! MAKE ME CUTE, OKAY?
W-WE APPRECIATE YOUR EN-THUSIASM, ADELE...
SPROING
BOING
BUT... ART... I AM NOT CONFIDENT IN MY ABILITY.
Boooo!
HOPE YOU'RE NOT EXPECTING ANYTHING WHEN NONE OF US HAVE SERIOUSLY STUDIED ART BEFORE!
Boooo!

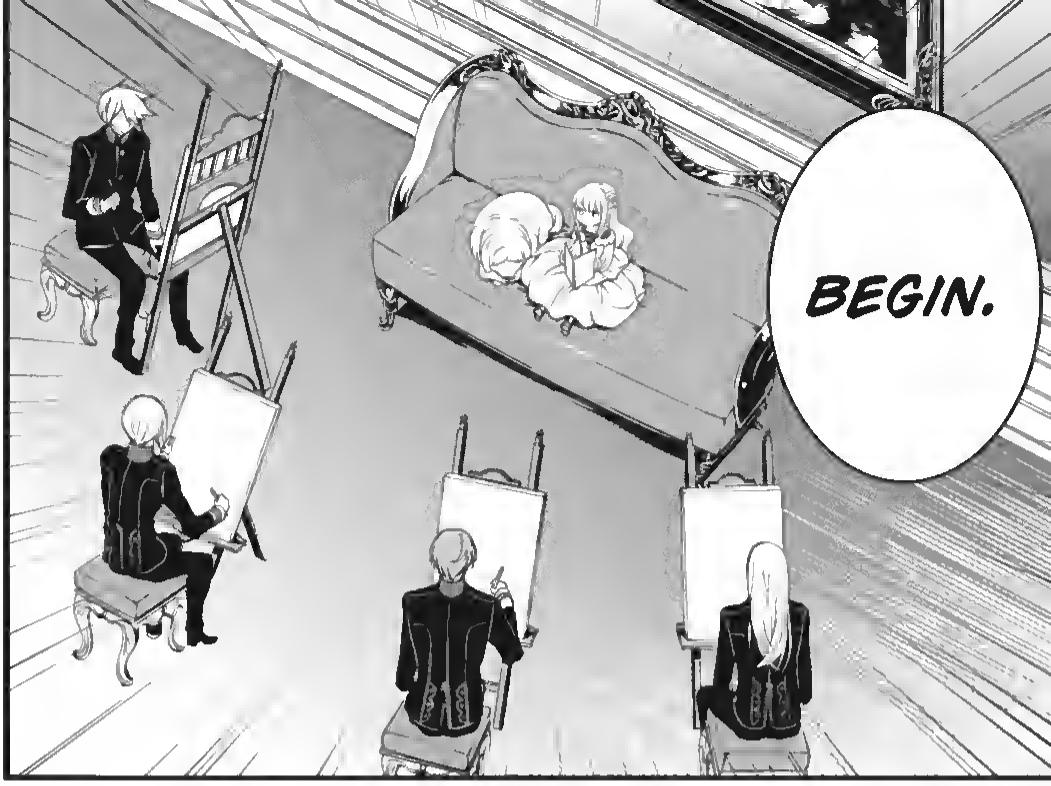
THE LESSON DOES NOT END WITH YOUR ARTISTIC EFFORTS.
PRINCESS ADELE HAS KINDLY AGREED TO CHOOSE THE BEST OF YOUR COMPLETED PIECES.
...YES, I WHOLLY EXPECTED THIS REACTION.
?
?
HMPH.
AS A PRIZE, THE WINNING PIECE...
...WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE NATIONAL ART MUSEUM FOR THE SPAN OF ONE WEEK.
TA-DAA!
.....
YOUR WORK WILL BE SEEN BY MANY MORE EYES THAN THOSE IN THE PALACE.
IT IS A GREAT HONOR.
HIS MAJESTY THE KING HAS ALREADY GRANTED US HIS PERMISSION.
WHAT !!?

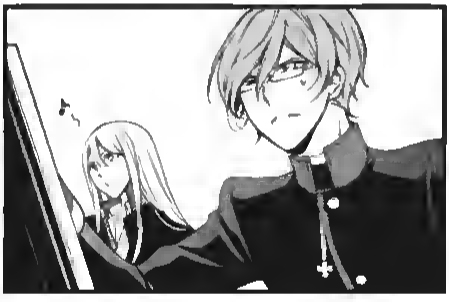

SPLENDID LEONHARD
WHAT A GOOD BOY YOU ARE.
IF I WIN THE PRIZE, PERHAPS FATHER AND GRANDMOTHER WILL PRAISE ME!
HONOR?
HOW DID YOU GO ABOUT CREATING THIS PIECE?
WONDERFUL WORK, PRINCE KAI!!
COULD BE A CHANCE...TO MEET NEW PEOPLE...
SEXY AND ARTISTIC!
HE'S A PRODIGY!
EEK! HOW MARVELOUS!!
PRINCE AND ARTIST... IS THERE NO END TO THE CHARMS I HOLD OVER THE LADIES!?
HEH-HEH
M-MASTER... MASTER... MAAASTERRRR!!!
THAT'S MY APPRENTICE!
GRRRUMBLE
TH-THIS COULD BE MY CHANCE TO IMPRESS MASTER...!

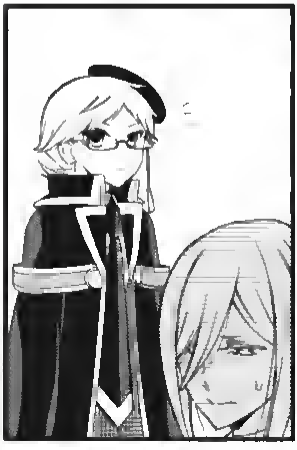
RRRMBL
I WANT TO DRAW!!
HMPH.
GOODNESS. I SEE I WAS CORRECT TO READY A PRIZE.
DRIVEN BY GAIN...
PLEASE!
PROFESSOR HEINE HAS MASTERED THE ART OF MANIPU-LATING THE PRINCES.

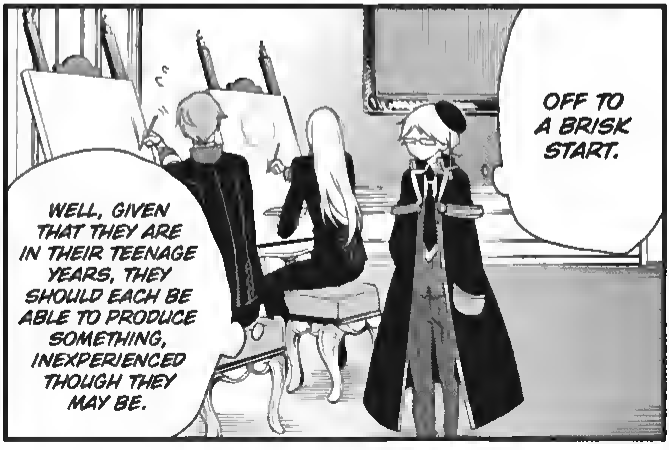
YOU ARE TO BEGIN BY SKETCHING, THEN COM-PLETE YOUR PORTRAITS WITH WATER-COLOR PAINTS.
YOU HAVE THREE HOURS.

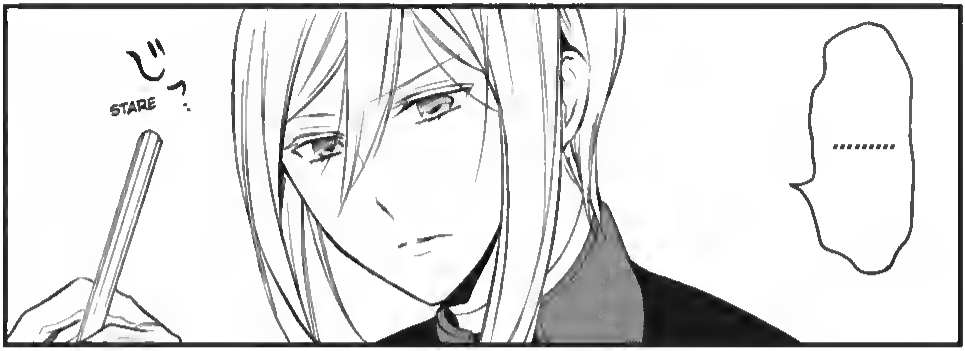

PLEASE MAKE YOUR-SELF COM-FORTABLE, PRINCESS ADELE.
OKAY!


BEGIN.

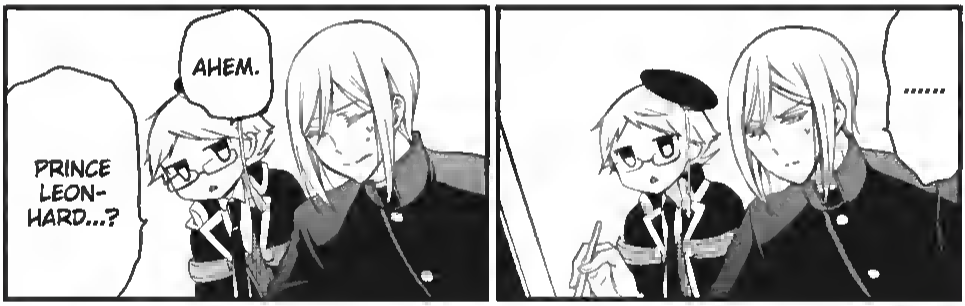





WELL, GIVEN THAT THEY ARE IN THEIR TEENAGE YEARS, THEY SHOULD EACH BE ABLE TO PRODUCE SOMETHING, INEXPERIENCED THOUGH THEY MAY BE.
OFF TO A BRISK START.


STARE
.....

BLANK.

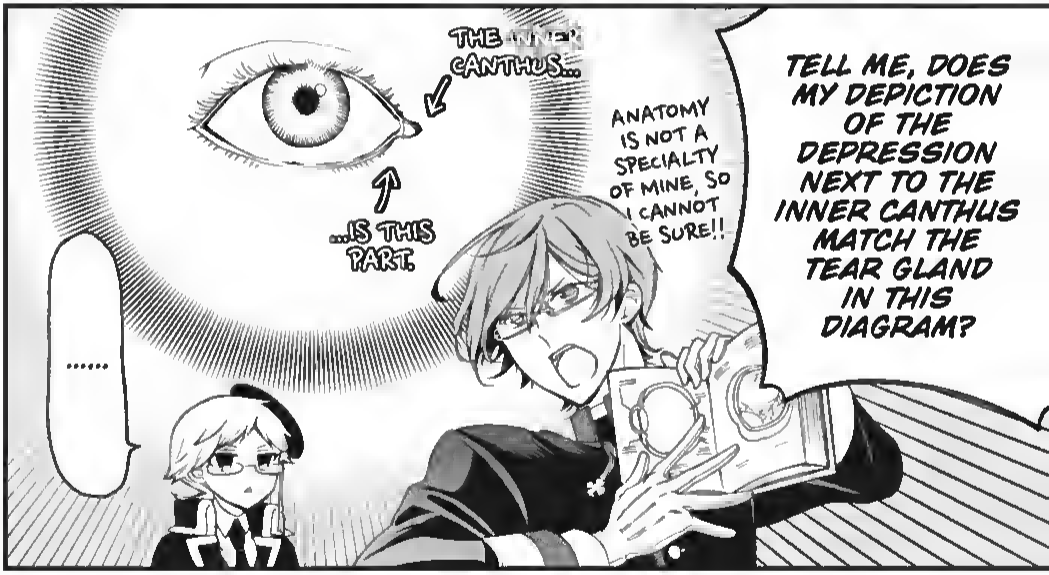

AHEM.
PRINCE LEON-HARD...?
.....

HEINE!
HOW ON EARTH DOES ONE GO ABOUT DRAWING ANYWAY!?
.....

SKRITCH
SKRITCH
HRRM...
GENERALLY SPEAKING, ONE FIRST ROUGHLY OUTLINES THE POSITION OF THE BODY, FROM THE HEAD TO THE FEET...
THE HEAD GOES HERE, THE FEET HERE...
AN OUTLINE LIKE THIS.
...AND THEN SIMPLY FILLS IN THE FINER DETAILS WHILE LOOKING AT THE MODEL.
DUNDUNNN
LIKE THIS!?
GOODNESS... BUT THAT IS TO BE EXPECTED... INDEED...
.....
YES. CARRY ON LIKE THIS.
SPLEN-DID!
I CAN DO THIS!

NOW, HOW MIGHT THE INTELLECTUAL PRINCE BRUNO DRAW?
MASTER, MAY I ASK FOR YOUR ADVICE?
RRRUMBLE
RRRUMBLE
RRRUMBLE
PLUNK
ぱたむっ
WHY HAVE YOU DROPPED IT FACE-DOWN?

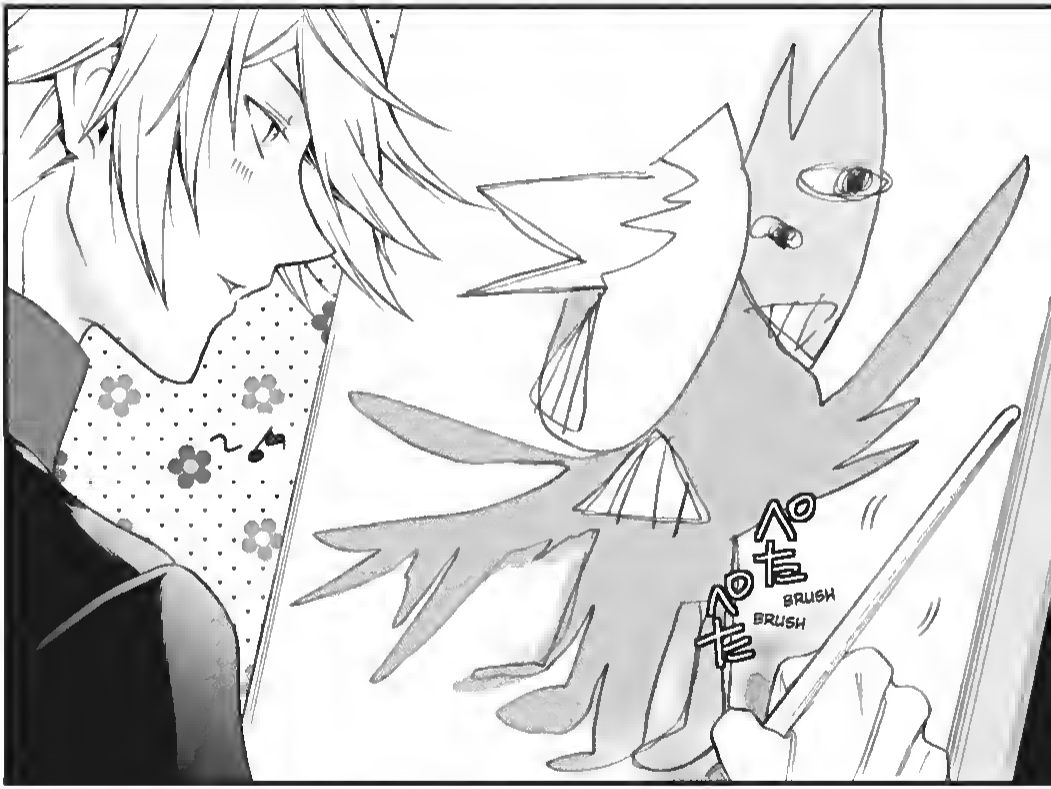
I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE EYES ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE FACE.
THUS, I BEGAN THE PORTRAIT WITH THE EYES.
AHEM!
ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN!
WHY ARE THE EYES... SO...?
I-IT LOOKS... CURSED...


THE INNER CANTHUS...
...IS THIS PART.
.....
ANATOMY IS NOT A SPECIALTY OF MINE, SO I CANNOT BE SURE!!
TELL ME, DOES MY DEPICTION OF THE DEPRESSION NEXT TO THE INNER CANTHUS MATCH THE TEAR GLAND IN THIS DIAGRAM?

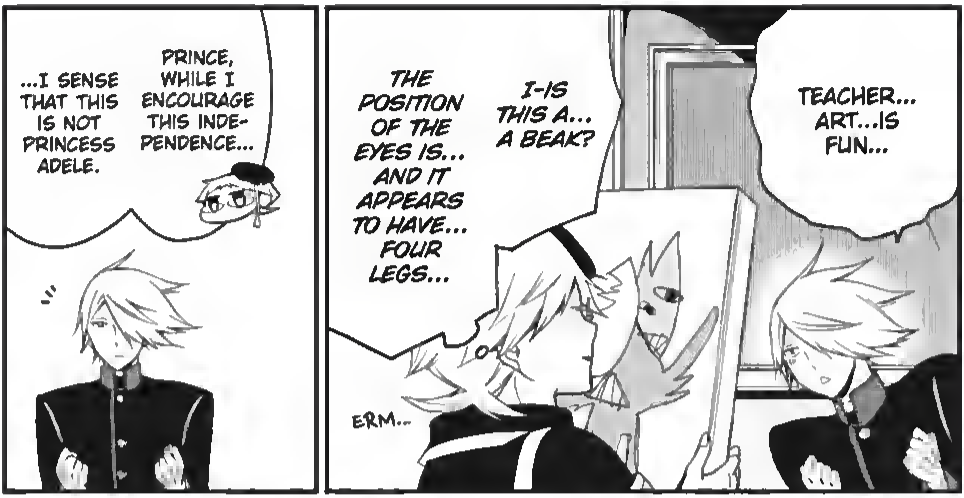
MY WORD!
ALSO, IF YOU WERE TO DRAW EACH AND EVERY DETAIL, YOU WOULD REMAIN AT THE EASEL FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
FIRST, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE SIZE OF THE EYES AND THAT OF THE REST OF THE FACE...

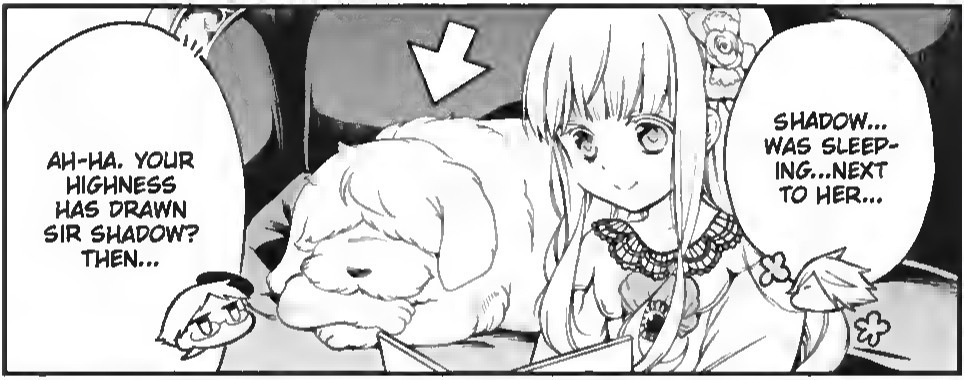
.....
STARE
ADVICE FROM AN ANGLE I WAS NOT EXPECTING... YOU NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE, MASTER...
I TOO WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT.
YOU DO EVERYTHING PERFECTLY. I'M SURE YOU'VE NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED OF.
HONESTLY, YOU SHOULD DRAW AN EXAMPLE FOR US!
..THAT ASIDE.
LET US PUT..
AWW!
PLEASE REFER TO THE COURT PAINTER'S STUDIES AS YOUR EXAMPLES.

MY, MY. PRINCE KAI HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO COLOR HIS PORTRAIT?
BRUSH
BRUSH
HMPH.
IF I WERE TO DRAW PRINCESS ADELE, YOUR DRAWINGS WOULD REFLECT MY ART STYLE.
IT IS BEST FOR ONE TO DRAW FREELY, IN ONE'S OWN STYLE.


BRUSH
BRUSH

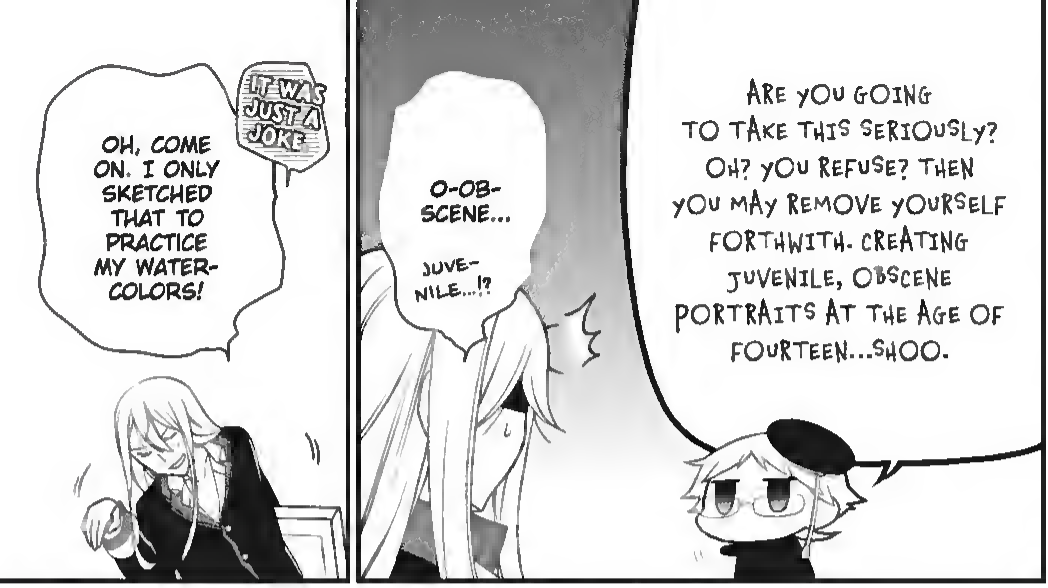
GULP
THERE IS SUCH A THING AS BEING TOO FREE.

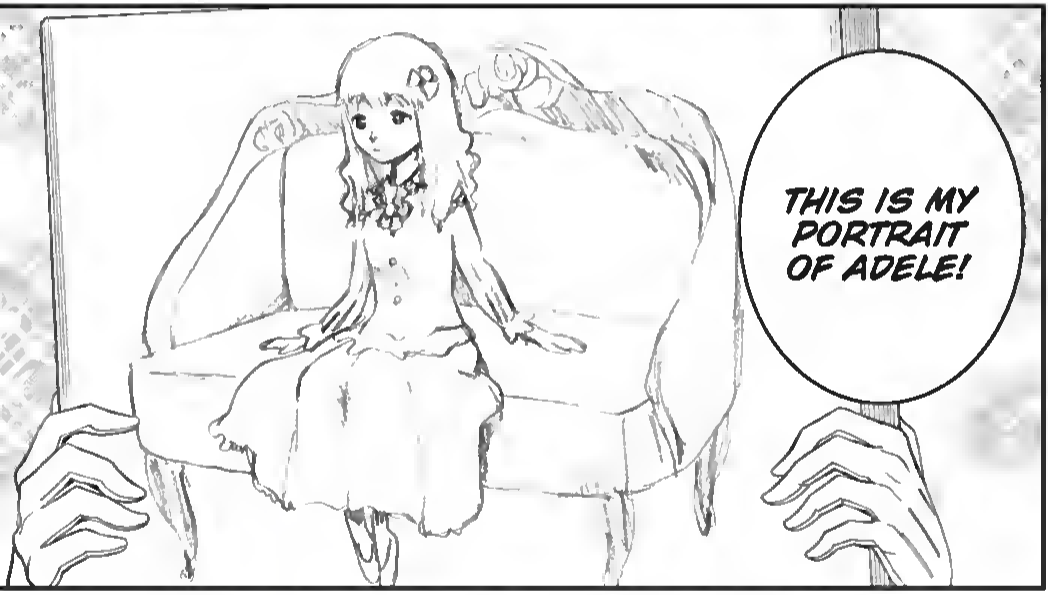

...I SENSE THAT THIS IS NOT PRINCESS ADELE.
PRINCE, WHILE I ENCOURAGE THIS INDE-PENDENCE...
TEACHER... ART...IS FUN...
I-IS THIS A... A BEAK?
THE POSITION OF THE EYES IS... AND IT APPEARS TO HAVE... FOUR LEGS...
ERM...

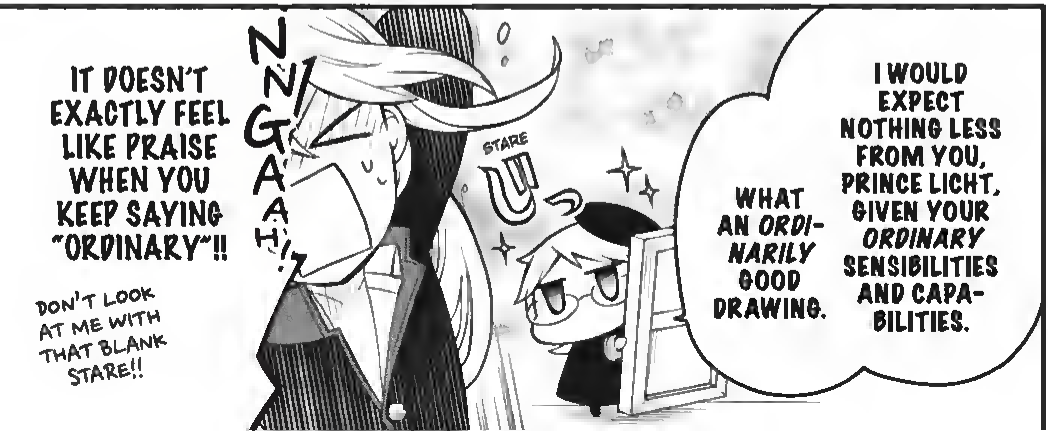

AH-HA. YOUR HIGHNESS HAS DRAWN SIR SHADOW? THEN...
SHADOW... WAS SLEEP-ING...NEXT TO HER...

EVEN THEN...!!
!?

NOW, WHAT MONSTROSITY HAS PRINCE LICHT RENDERED...?
PEEK
EACH PAINTING REFLECTS THE PAINTER.
PRINCE KAI WOULD INDEED PERCEIVE THE WORLD IN A UNIQUE WAY...
HEHHEH-HEH
SMIRK
SMIRK
DON'T AIM FOR MY SHINS!!
THAT JUST PLAIN HURTS!
WH-WHOA! MY SHINS!!
THWACK
THWACK


IT WAS JUST A JOKE
OH, COME ON. I ONLY SKETCHED THAT TO PRACTICE MY WATER-COLORS!
O-OB-SCENE...
JUVE-NILE...!?
ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY? OH? YOU REFUSE? THEN YOU MAY REMOVE YOURSELF FORTHWITH. CREATING JUVENILE, OBSCENE PORTRAITS AT THE AGE OF FOURTEEN...SHOO.


THIS IS MY PORTRAIT OF ADELE!

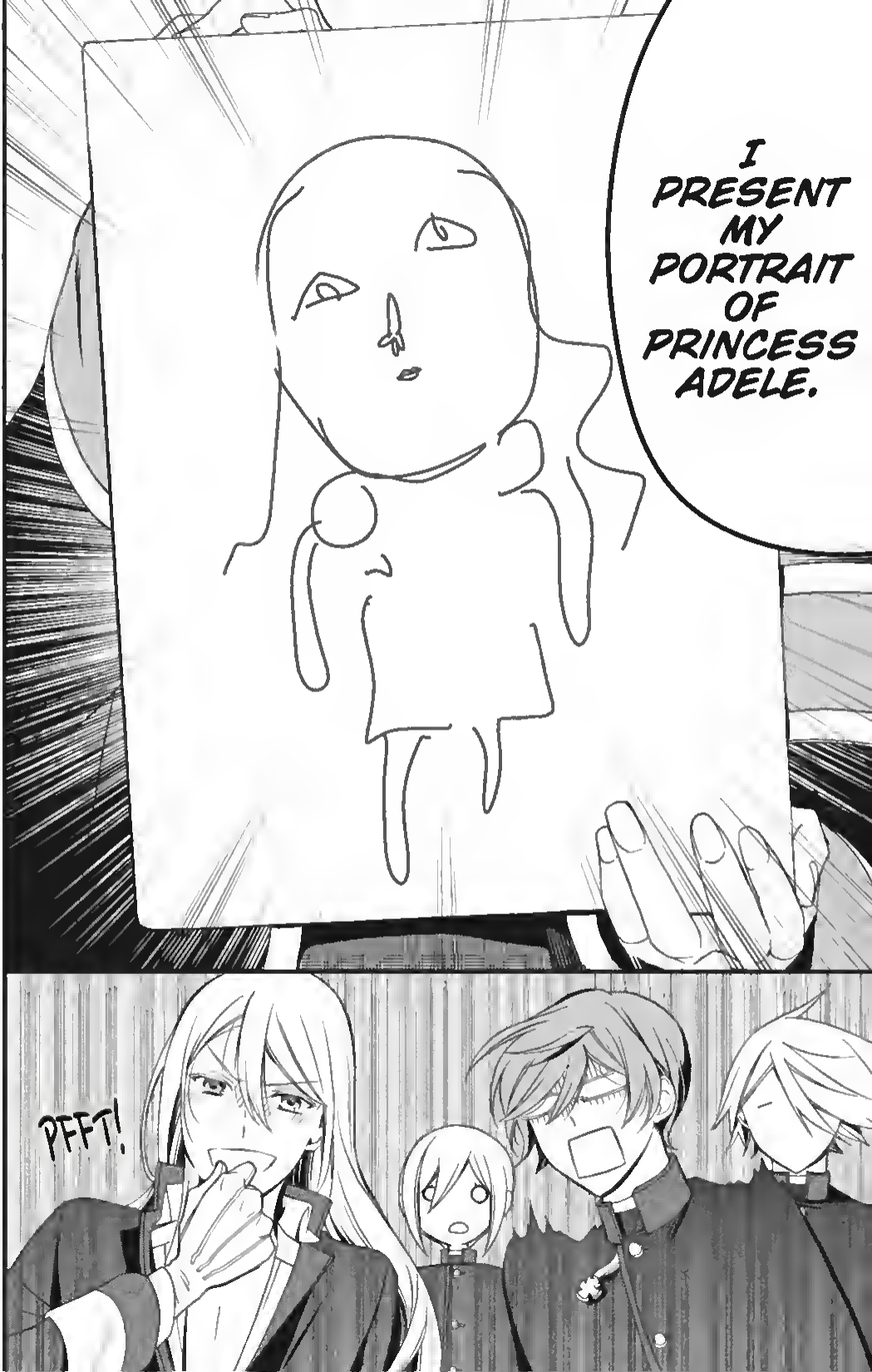

IT DOESN'T EXACTLY FEEL LIKE PRAISE WHEN YOU KEEP SAYING "ORDINARY"!!
DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH THAT BLANK STARE!!
NNGAAH!
STARE
WHAT AN *ORDINARILY* GOOD DRAWING.
I WOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM YOU, PRINCE LICHT, GIVEN YOUR *ORDINARY* SENSIBILITIES AND CAPABILITIES.

N-NOT SO...WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I WAS SICK IN BED SO OFTEN...WHEN I WAS BORED, I'D DOODLE SOMETIMES...
YOU'RE... AMAZING...
MY. YOU'RE QUITE GOOD AT THIS!
.....
ANYHOW, I DON'T DRAW NOWADAYS!
IT'S NOT SO IMPRESSIVE!
.....
WHY HAVE YOU STOPPED?
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE MATTER? YOU ARE ALMOST READY TO ADD COLOR, ARE YOU NOT?

I-IT FEELS AS THOUGH...
...MY PICTURE...
...PALES IN COMPARISON TO LICHT'S.
I HAVE TO WONDER IF THERE IS ANY POINT IN FINISHING.
MINE HAS NO CHANCE OF WINNING ANYWAY...
GACK.!
LEON-HARD...
TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE! MINE IS AN AWFUL EXCUSE OF A DRAWING. REALLY.
LOOK AT THIS!
IF YOURS IS AWFUL, THEN MINE IS EVEN WORSE...
SULK
WAAH! WHAT THE DEVIL DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY!?

I-I KNOW THAT...
...YOU'RE TRYING TO TRICK ME AGAIN...
.....
YES?
NOW, NOW. DO NOT SAY SUCH THINGS.
YOU ALREADY BEGAN THE PORTRAIT. YOU MAY AS WELL SEE IT TO COMPLETION.
SOMEONE LIKE YOU...
SOMEONE AS PERFECT AS YOU WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL...
EVERYONE WHO SEES THIS HORRID DRAWING WILL LAUGH AT ME— I KNOW IT!
IT'S SO FRUSTRATING THAT YOU WANT TO DISAPPEAR...
IT'S EMBARRASSING TO BE BAD AT THINGS!

KLAK
I WILL DRAW A PORTRAIT OF PRINCESS ADELE TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU.
I DID NOT WISH TO RESORT TO THIS, BUT I SEE THAT THE SITUATION CALLS FOR IT.
.....
GLOW
PROFESSOR! YOU'RE GOING TO DRAW ME?
EH...
IT IS FINISHED.
'TWILL BE A MASTERPIECE, SURELY...!
T-TO THINK THAT WE WOULD HAVE THE HONOR OF SEEING AN EXAMPLE FROM MASTER...


I PRESENT MY PORTRAIT OF PRINCESS ADELE.
PFFT!

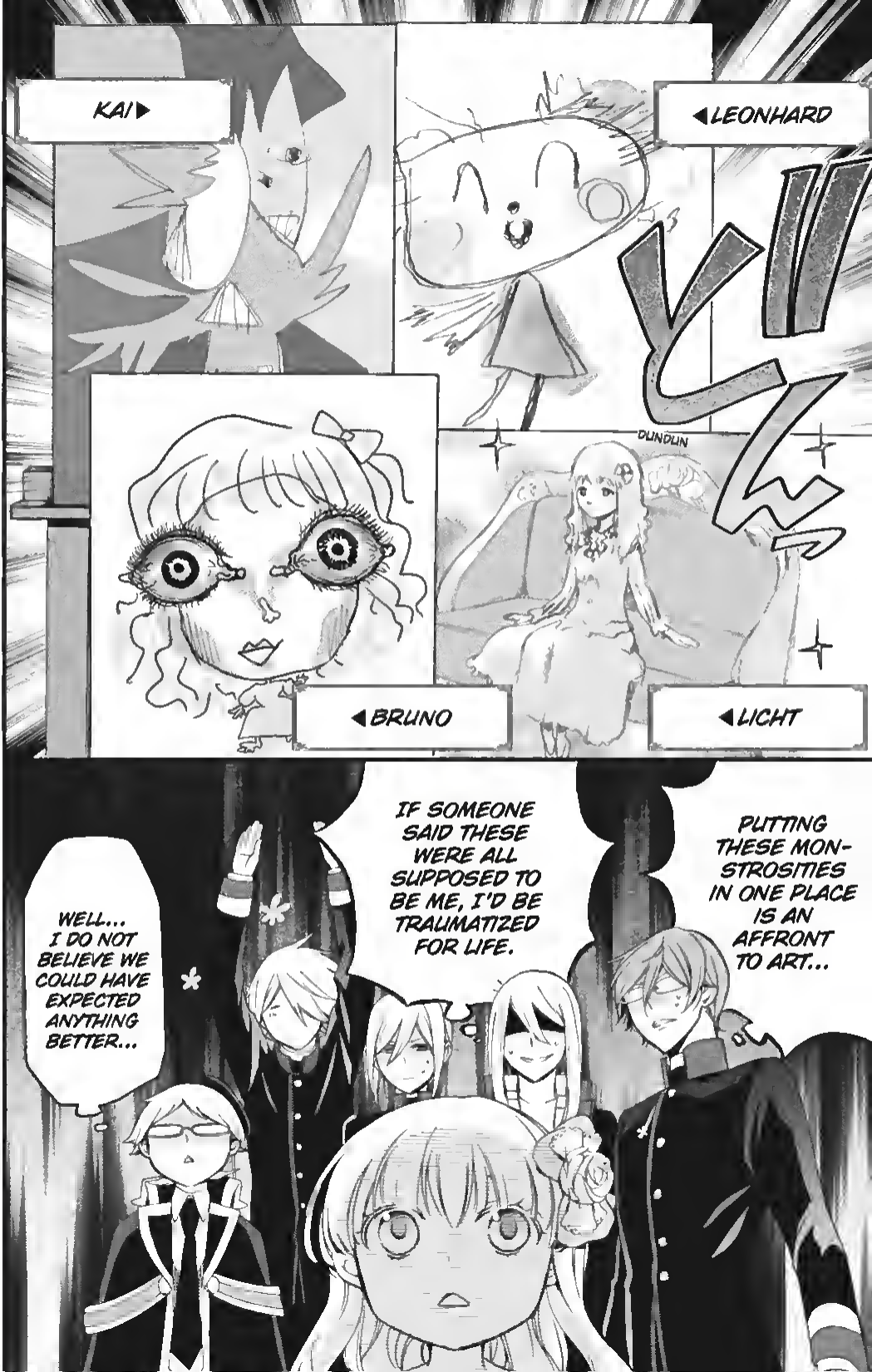
JO
QUIVER
JO
QUIVER
JO
QUIVER
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA! FOR REAL!? OH MY LORD, TEACH! IT'S...IT'S AMAZING!
YOURS IS THE WORST OF THE LOT! AH-HA-HA-HA!
QUIVER
QUIVER
JO
JO
TEACH, ARE YOU EMBARRASSED...?
FLINCH
...SO...
NEVER... MASTER COULD NEVER BE SO...
I-IT CAN'T BE...
HMPH!
AWW, I'M SORRY!
BRUNIE'S BROKEN!
FACE REALITY, BRUNIE!!
EXQUISITE, MASTER!
N-NO! IT IS A TRUE WORK OF ART— ABSTRACT ART! THIS CIRCLE REPRESENTS THE UNIVERSE, AND THIS LINE REPRESENTS MANKIND...!

...EVEN YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU ARE BAD AT?
EDUCATORS ARE ONLY HUMAN.
HRMPH!
.....
I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO IMPROVE MY OWN DRAWING.
ALTHOUGH I CAN EXPLAIN THE THEORY BEHIND IT.
I WAS TERRIBLE AT EVERYTHING IN THE BEGINNING. STUDIES AND OTHERWISE.
I AM NO DIFFERENT THAN YOUR HIGHNESS.
.....
...B...
...BUT...

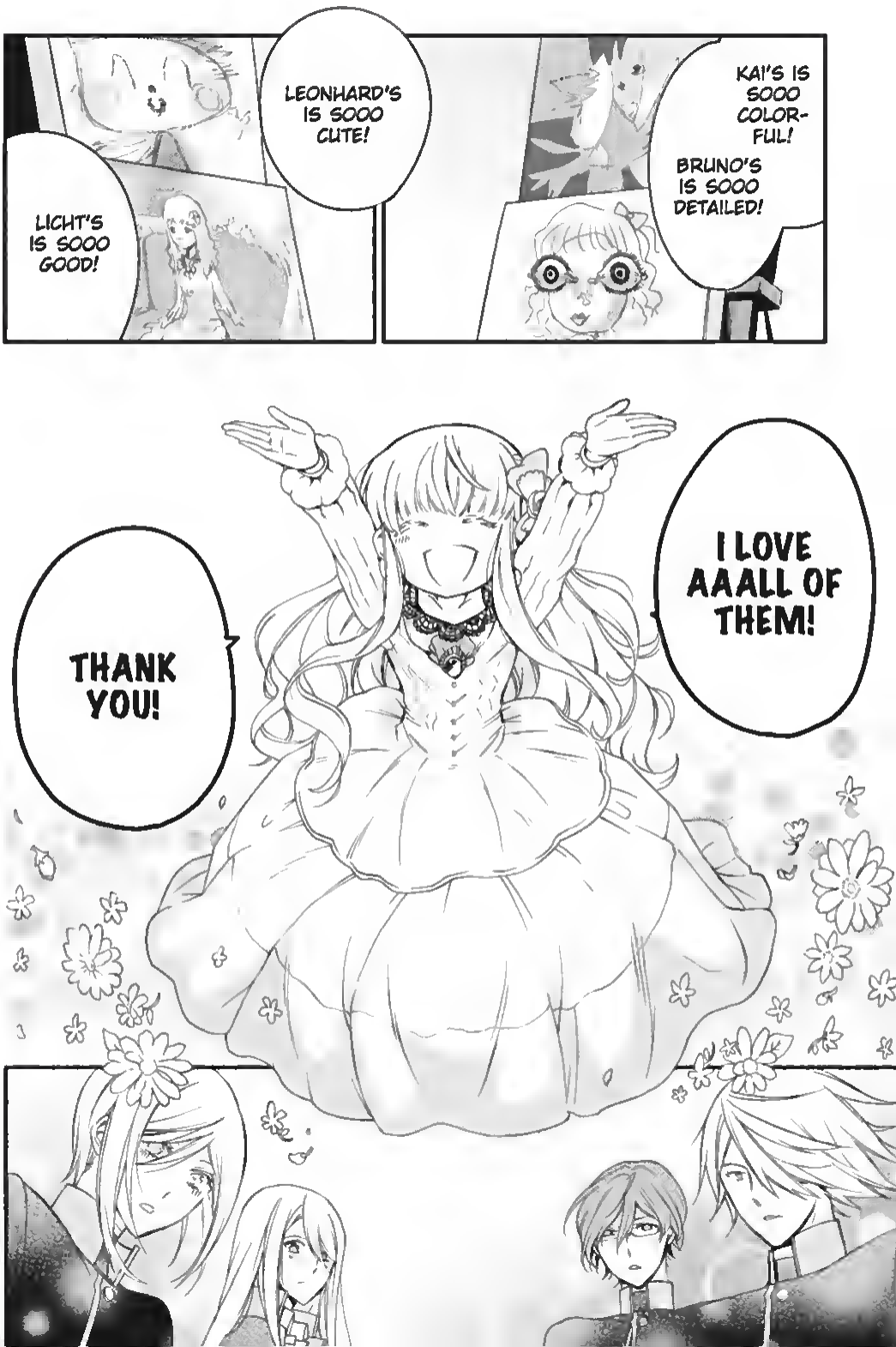
YOU ARE SADLY MISTAKEN IF YOU THINK THAT YOU WILL BECOME A MODEL STUDENT OVERNIGHT...
...AFTER PUTTING NO EFFORT INTO YOUR STUDIES FOR YEARS.
.....!
YOU TOO, PRINCE LEONHARD, WILL...
RIGHT. OF COURSE.
OF COURSE I WOULDN'T BE GOOD AT IT RIGHT FROM THE START.
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I WOULD BE AWFUL AT IT.
I SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO GIVE UP BEFORE I'VE GOTTEN ANYWHERE.

HEINE
...
...I WANT...
...TO SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE END!
PRINCE LEONHARD...

WHEW. IT'S OVER!
YOUR TIME IS UP. WELL DONE, EVERY-ONE.
NOW, LET US COMPARE YOUR WORK.


KAI▶
◀LEONHARD
DUNDUN
◀BRUNO
◀LICHT
PUTTING THESE MONSTROSITIES IN ONE PLACE IS AN AFFRONT TO ART...
IF SOMEONE SAID THESE WERE ALL SUPPOSED TO BE ME, I'D BE TRAUMATIZED FOR LIFE.
WELL... I DO NOT BELIEVE WE COULD HAVE EXPECTED ANYTHING BETTER...

LET US SAY THAT EACH OF THESE IS... A UNIQUE INTERPRETATION.
SORRY WE COULDN'T CAPTURE YOUR CUTENESS!
A-AHEM! THEY DO NOT RESEMBLE YOU, ADELE, NOT IN THE LEAST!
.....
THEY'RE LOVELY!
GLOOOW
はぁっ
ERM... WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THEM...?
WOW, WOW!
WHAT!?


LICHT'S IS SOOO GOOD!
LEONHARD'S IS SOOO CUTE!
KAI'S IS SOOO COLOR-FUL!
BRUNO'S IS SOOO DETAILED!
I LOVE AAALL OF THEM!
THANK YOU!

PERHAPS, AMONG THOSE OF US HERE, PRINCESS ADELE HAS THE BEST EYE FOR ART.
HMM
...I-I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S THIS PLEASED...
...
WHEE!
YAY!
AN EYE FOR ART? I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
IT WAS A LOT OF WORK THOUGH.
AFTER THAT, I'LL THINK TWICE ABOUT MISHANDLING PEOPLE'S ART.
AT THE LEAST.
IT WAS FUN...
I WANT TO DRAW MORE...
IT WAS A...VALUABLE... EXPERIENCE.
IT TAUGHT ME THAT I AM NO ARTIST...
UGH...

I'M NO GOOD AT ART, BUT IF IT MADE ADELE HAPPY...
I THINK... I'M GLAD.
...THEN I THINK I'M GLAD...
...THAT I STUCK IT OUT TO THE END.

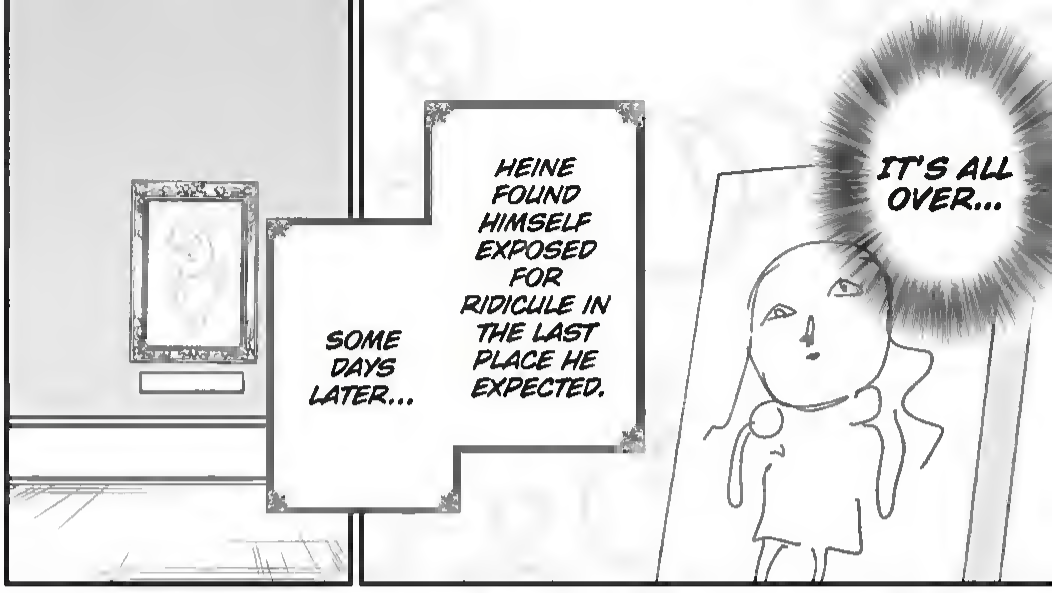
...IS THAT SO?
IF YOUR HIGHNESSES HAVE ALL TAKEN SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM THIS LESSON...
...THEN I BELIEVE WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT IT WAS AN EXCEEDINGLY VALUABLE EXPERIENCE.

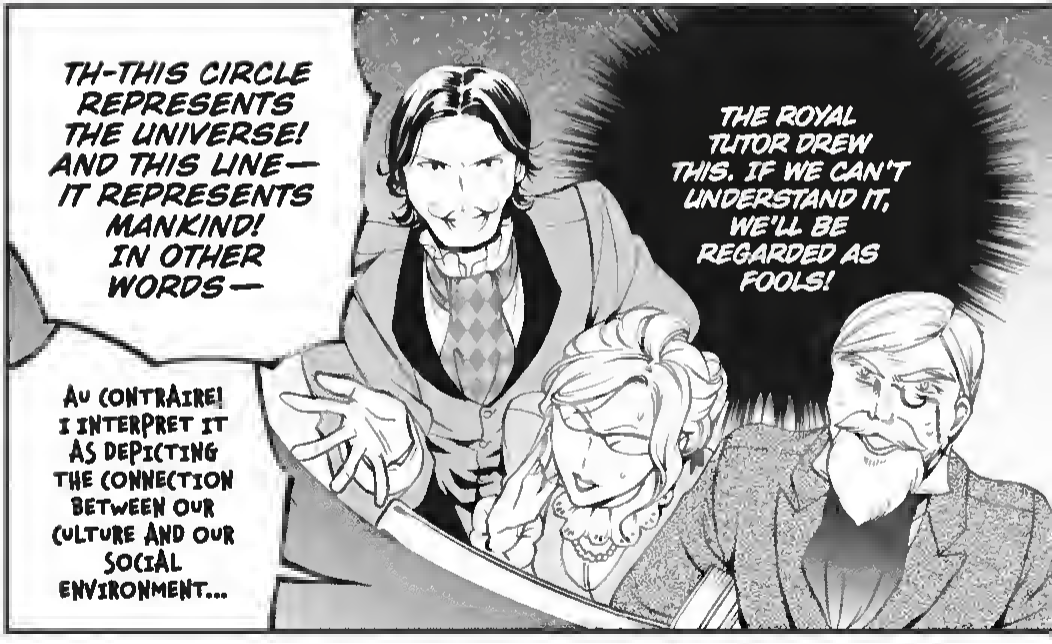
NOW, PRINCESS ADELE...

BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
I REALIZE THE CHOICE MAY TAKE SOME TIME.
WILL YOU CHOOSE A WINNER FROM AMONG THESE PAINTINGS?

UMM...
THAT ONE!
?
!!!?
MINE ...!!?
TEACH'S DRAWING WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE ART MUSEUM?
PFFT!
WAIT... THEN...

THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE, YES!!?
PRINCESS ADELE, PLEASE THINK VERY HARD. WHY WOULD YOU CHOOSE THIS PIECE?
UMMM, BE-CAUSE...
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT.
DO NOT JUST ACCEPT IT. PLEASE.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS, MASTER!
WELL, IT IS ADELE'S CHOICE...
TCH.
...I'M SOOO HAPPY...
...THAT THE PRO-FESSOR DREW ME!
IT'S OVER...
MY TENURE AS THE ROYAL TUTOR... IS OVER...
SLUMP
!?
HO-HO...!
?


IT'S ALL OVER...
HEINE FOUND HIMSELF EXPOSED FOR RIDICULE IN THE LAST PLACE HE EXPECTED.
SOME DAYS LATER...


TH-THIS CIRCLE REPRESENTS THE UNIVERSE! AND THIS LINE— IT REPRESENTS MANKIND! IN OTHER WORDS—
THE ROYAL TUTOR DREW THIS. IF WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, WE'LL BE REGARDED AS FOOLS!
AU CONTRAIRE! I INTERPRET IT AS DEPICTING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR CULTURE AND OUR SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT...

LOOK AT THAT CHAOS
THE WORLD OF ART IS INDEED COMPLEX...
YOUR WORK IS RECEIVING RAVE REVIEWS, ESPECIALLY FROM THE CRITICS!!
MAR-VELOUS, MASTER!!

CREAK
PARDON THE INTER-RUPTION, PRINCE LEONHARD.
IT IS TIME FOR YOUR LESSO—
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
!!?

Chapter 20

A Troubled Prince!?

DAZED
!?!!
.....
WHAT WERE YOU SO FOCUSED ON WRITING, PRAY TELL?
HAVE YOU BECOME NEGATIVE AGAIN AND BEGUN ANOTHER DISASTER DIARY?
OR PERHAPS IT IS A HATE DIARY DIRECTED TOWARD MYSELF AND THE LESSONS YOU SO HATE?
HUMPH!
ACK!

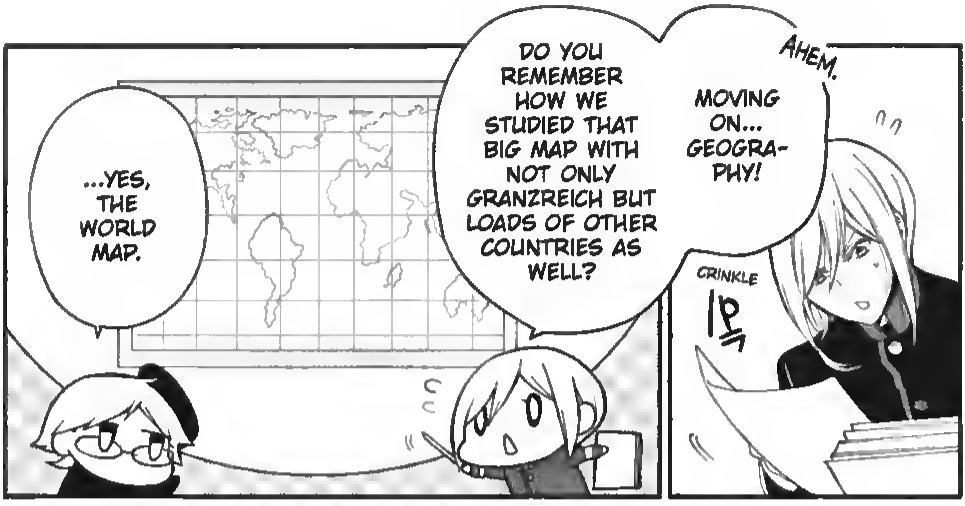
N-NO!
THAT'S NOT WHAT IT IS.
I... THAT IS...
I KNOW! I'LL MAKE A NOTE AND ASK HEINE TOMORROW!
TA-DAA!
LAST NIGHT, I FOUND MYSELF CURIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING FROM MY LESSONS THAT I DID NOT UNDERSTAND...
HMM. WHAT WAS THE ANSWER AGAIN?
WHILE I'M AT IT, I SHOULD ASK THIS AS WELL.
AND THIS, AND THIS.
HMM? COME TO THINK OF IT, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THIS EITHER.
OR THAT, OR THAT...
CURIOSITY COULD INDEED HAVE KILLED HIM...
THE NEXT THING I KNEW, MORNING WAS UPON ME.
URGH...
ACK!
MUTTER MUTTER
AND THIS AND THAT

はぁ～
GLOW
I BELIEVE THAT MAKING A SINCERE EFFORT TO LEARN WHAT ONE DOES NOT KNOW IS A REMARKABLE POLICY.
HMM.
WHILE I CANNOT RECOMMEND STAYING AWAKE THROUGH THE NIGHT, I DO APPLAUD YOUR DEDICATION.
W-WELL, I AM A PRINCE, AFTER ALL! NATURALLY, I AM A CUT ABOVE THE REST!
HEH-HEH!
HE PRAISED ME!
HE PRAISED MEEE!
MY WORD.
SOMEONE LOOKS OVER-JOYED.
SO PREDICTABLE.
VERY WELL. I WILL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS BEFORE WE BEGIN TODAY'S LESSON.
OKAY!
HE PRAISED ME...
UMM, THEN I SHALL START WITH MATHE-MATICS.
THIS PROBLEM HERE, FIVE DI-VIDED BY TWO...

2
2) 5
4
1
WHAT AM I TO DO WITH IT...!?
KH!
BUT TRY AS I MAY, A ONE ALWAYS RE-MAINS...
I TAUGHT YOU HOW TO DIVIDE, DID I NOT?
HMPH!
W-WAIT! I REMEMBER HOW TO DIVIDE! I DO!
IN FACT, I BELIEVE I TAUGHT YOU THAT THERE MAY BE REMAINDERS WHEN DIVIDING.
THERE IS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
.....
.....

NOW, NOW. I WILL GLADLY ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE SO LONG AS THEY PERTAIN TO YOUR LESSONS.
DO NOT BEGIN ANOTH-ER DI-SASTER DIARY.
MUTTER
I'LL ALWAYS BE A FAILURE... A FAILURE WITH THE MEMORY OF A GOLDFISH...
MUTTER
MUTTER
SKRITCH
SKRITCH

125
−17
...YOU TAUGHT ME TO SUBTRACT FROM THE SAME COLUMNS ...
...BUT YOU CANNOT SUBTRACT SEVEN FROM FIVE, CAN YOU?
A— ANOTHER QUESTION, THEN. WHEN WORKING WITH THREE-DIGIT FIGURES...
125
−17
108
.....
SMACK
THEREFORE, THE ANSWER IS ONE HUNDRED EIGHT.
1
125
10
−17
IN THIS CASE, YOU BORROW ONE DIGIT FROM THE TWO, AND BRING IT OVER TO THE FIVE.
GLOOM
うーん..
...I-IT WAS TOO SOON FOR ME TO ATTEMPT SUCH ADVANCED MATHE-MATICS...
WE COVERED THIS AS WELL...
WE WILL HAVE TO REVIEW IT CAREFULLY
PRINCE NOTES
HEINE


...YES, THE WORLD MAP.
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW WE STUDIED THAT BIG MAP WITH NOT ONLY GRANZREICH BUT LOADS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL?
AHEM.
MOVING ON... GEOGRA-PHY!
CRINKLE

BAM
THE EDGES OF THE MAP!!
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU ACTUALLY TRAVELED TO WHERE IT CUTS OFF!?

AHHH!
THE WORLD ENDS HERE
SPACE STARTS HERE
.....
GULP
WOULD YOU FIND... A FATE SUCH AS THIS...?

THIS GLOBE DEPICTS THE WORLD IN ITS TRUE SHAPE.
???
IF YOU WOULD WAIT JUST A MOMENT...
?
THUNK
EH...
IN TRUTH, WERE YOU TO JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD, YOU COULD GO ROUND AND ROUND FOREVER.
MAPS ARE MERELY FLAT REPRESENTATIONS.
B-BUT IF THE WORLD IS ROUND, WHY DO WE NOT FALL OFF OF IT?
IT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS FACT AFTER MANY CALCULATIONS, ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS, AND SO ON.
A-ARE YOU CERTAIN?

.....
NOW, WHAT HOLDS US TO THE PLANET IS THE FORCE KNOWN AS "GRAVITY"...
HUH?
IT IS STILL EARLY FOR US TO STUDY GRAVITY AT THIS POINT IN YOUR SCIENCE STUDIES.
BUT WE WILL HAVE A LESSON ON THE SUBJECT SOON.
I-IS IT ALL RIGHT TO CHANGE YOUR LESSON PLANS?
BUT OF COURSE.
I WILL ACQUIRE A TELE-SCOPE...
...SO THAT WE MAY OBSERVE THE MOVE-MENTS OF THE MOON AND STARS FOR OUR-SELVES.

IT IS BEST FOR YOUR HIGHNESSES TO LEARN WHAT INTERESTS YOU AT ANY GIVEN TIME.
PLANNING LESSONS THAT SUIT THE NEEDS OF ONE'S STUDENTS...
...IS THE TRUE WORK OF A TUTOR.
.....
I UTTERLY DESPISE STUDYING.
AND YET I HAVE THIS...THIS STRANGE FEELING.
.....
HOW CURI-OUS.
?

I FEEL SO ENERGIZED, GETTING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS I THOUGHT UP ON MY OWN.
I DO NOT DREAD MY LESSONS QUITE SO MUCH EITHER.
TO THINK I'D BE A BIT EXCITED TO STUDY!
I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE!

PRINCE LEONHARD...
BEFORE, HE ADAMANTLY REFUSED TO STUDY.
.....
...PERHAPS HE HAS BEGUN TO REALIZE...
...THAT THERE IS JOY IN LEARNING, BEYOND SCORES AND GRADES...

PRINCE LEONHARD...
...IS SLOWLY BUT SURELY MATURING, RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.
WH-WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME THAT WAY?
HOW UNSET-TLING!
IT IS NOTHING OF CONSE-QUENCE.
NOW, SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, DO NOT HESITATE TO SPEAK UP.
THUMP
IT WILL INFORM MY FUTURE LESSON PLANS.
C-CAN I?
SPARKLE
LET'S SEE, THEN.

WHY DOES SACHER-TORTE TASTE SO DELIGHT-FUL?
I-I BEG YOUR PARDON?
WOBBLE
LURCH
WHY DO CARROTS AND PEPPERS TASTE SO TERRIBLE?
WHY IS ADELE SO VERY CUTE?
WHY IS DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO SO COOL?
SHOOM
STOP.
WHY ARE YOU SO SHOR—
AWW...
FINE. THEN...
MAKE SURE IT IS A QUESTION THAT WILL HAVE A DEFINITIVE ANSWER.
HMPH.
THIS COULD GO ON WITHOUT END.
I WILL ANSWER ONE MORE QUESTION FOR YOU TODAY.

WHERE DO BABIES COME FROM?
!

AN EPIC DIS-COV-ERY!!
BUT WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT IT YESTERDAY, I REALIZED THAT SUCH NOTIONS ARE QUITE MAD!
THE STORIES SAY THAT THEY ARE BORN FROM CABBAGES OR DELIVERED BY STORKS.
SHOOM
IT IS TOO SOON FOR YOU.
SO I DECIDED TO ASK Y—
PROFESSOR HEINE FOUND HIMSELF TROUBLED OVER HOW TO DEFLECT SUCH QUESTIONS IN THE FUTURE.
THERE ARE SOME THINGS ONE COMES TO UNDERSTAND WITH AGE...
NOW, LET US BEGIN YOUR LESSON FOR THE DAY.
COME ON! TELL ME!
WHAT!? BUT WHY!?
WHY WOULD I, WHEN LICHT IS YOUNGER THAN ME?
AH YES. NEVER BRING THAT QUESTION UP TO PRINCE LICHT.

[INTERMISSION]
FLUFFILIST KAI
HIS NAME: KAI.
A PRINCE WHO LOVES THE SOFTNESS AND FLUFFINESS OF THE WORLD— A FIRST-RATE FLUFFILIST.
HIS MOTTO: "SOFT AND FLUFFY IS A MIRACLE OF LIFE."
HE PETS ONLY LIVING SOFT AND FLUFFY THINGS.
PET
PET
PET
PET
PET
!!?
ROLL
20
MASTER
LURCH
AUGH!
THE DOLL I MADE SO THAT I COULD PRACTICE SPEAKING TO MASTER WITHOUT BEING NERVOUS!!
RETURN HIM AT ONCE!!
SO...PT...?
THE DAY THAT YOU MAY FEEL THE SOFTNESS OF THE REAL PROFESSOR IS PROBABLY INCREDIBLY CLOSE!
FIGHT ON, FLUFFILIST KAI!

Chapter 21
Café Break Game

CAFÉ MITTER MEYER. MY PLACE OF RELAX-ATION.
IN THIS QUIET ESTAB-LISHMENT, I DEVOTE MYSELF TO MY WORK WHILE SIPPING THE FINEST COFFEE...
YOUR ORDER, SIR: ONE LINZER TORTE AND A MELANGE.
...AND WATCHING OVER A PRINCE WHO WORKS IN SECRET.

AHEM. HERR RICH.
YOU SEEM TO BE IN EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH SPIRITS TODAY, PRINCE LICHT—
HERE YOU ARE, SIR. YOUR THIRD MELANGE OF THE DAY.
AH, WELL... YOU KNOW.
I'M THAT PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO KEEP WORKING HERE...THAT IS TO SAY...
GLINT
...A WORK OF ART LIKE ME CAN'T BE KEPT HIDDEN AWAY BUT IS MEANT TO BE APPRECIATED BY THE EYES OF LADIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
EEEE! RICHIIIE!
.....

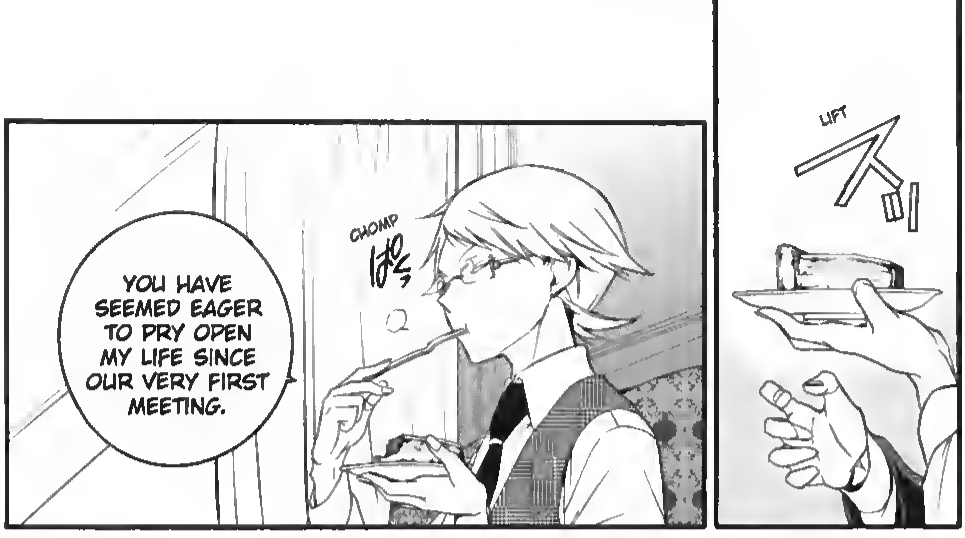
I-I KNOW THAT.
I APPRE-CIATE YOUR PART IN IT AS WELL.
GAck!
PRAY DO REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE ALLOWED TO DISPLAY YOURSELF SO THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF YOUR FATHER.

.....
AS LONG AS YOU ARE AWARE.

I WAS RIGHT. YOU AND HE DO KNOW EACH OTHER, DON'T YOU?
...SPEAKING OF FATHER...
CREAK

...WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?
STILL GOING TO PLAY DUMB?
THAT WON'T DO.
I SPIED YOU TWO CHATTING LIKE OLD FRIENDS WHEN HE WAS HERE.
THEN YOU MISINTER-PRETED.
I AM BUT A COMMONER. HOW, PRAY TELL, WOULD I HAVE BECOME "FRIENDS" WITH HIS MAJESTY THE KING?
YOINK
ひょい
KLAK
NOW, NOW!

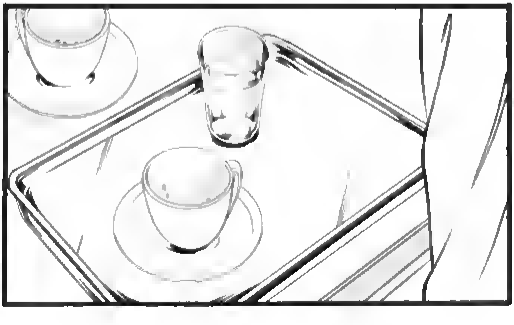
I'M ASKING YOU BECAUSE I DO NOT KNOW, AREN'T I?
...TELL ME. WHAT IS YOUR SECRET, TEACH?
YOU KNOW MY SECRET.
IT'S ONLY FAIR, WOULDN'T YOU SAY...?
.....


LIFT
CHOMP
YOU HAVE SEEMED EAGER TO PRY OPEN MY LIFE SINCE OUR VERY FIRST MEETING.

ONCE AND FOR ALL?
SHALL WE SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL?
IT IS PROBLEMATIC FOR ME AS WELL, HAVING TO ENDURE LUDICROUS GUESSES.

TWO OF THESE CUPS WILL DO.
SQUIK
SQUIK
TEACH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YES. LET ME SEE, NOW...



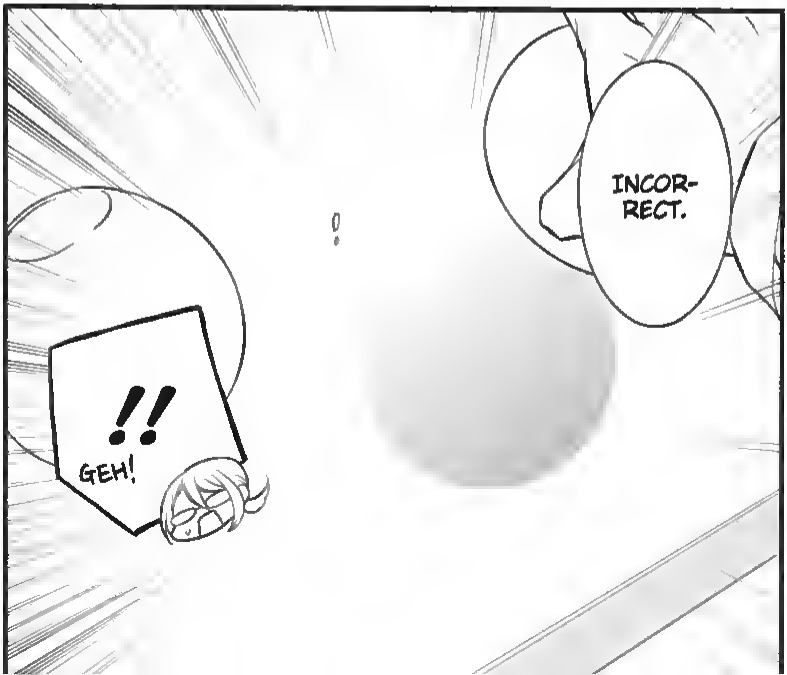
LET US PLAY A GAME.
IF I SHOULD WIN, YOU WILL NO LONGER PRY INTO MY PRIVATE AFFAIRS.
IF YOU SHOULD WIN, I WILL ANSWER ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS.
HMM... SOUNDS FAIR TO ME.
BUT YOU CAN'T ANSWER MY QUESTIONS WITH GOBBLEDY-GOOK!
YOU HAVE MY WORD.

I HAVE MARKED A ONE-FLORIN COIN.
I WILL PLACE IT UNDER ONE OF THE CUPS LIKE SO AND SHUFFLE THEM.
SO, WHAT KIND OF GAME WILL IT BE?
IT IS BUT A SIMPLE GAME.
SHUFFLE
DUNDUN
NOW...
...WHERE IS THE COIN?

.....
UMM, IT WAS HERE FIRST, THEN WENT LIKE THIS, THEN LIKE THIS...

AWWW, YOU GAVE ME A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE?
OH, SO GENEROUS!

I'VE GOT IT!
IT'S UNDER THIS ONE!


INCOR-RECT.
!
!!
GEH!

ONCE MORE! PRETTY PLEASE?
N-NO FAIR!
A PITY. I HAVE WON THE GAME, THEN.
4
!!
CLINK
.....
HAAH.
I WON'T ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT!
THAT WAS A PRACTICE ROUND! GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE!
...AS YOU WISH.
BUT I WILL NOT DO SO AGAIN.
BRIL-LIANT!

SHUFF
SHUFF
SHUFF
SWOOSH
NOW...
...WHERE IS THE COIN?
POINT

THE COIN...
...IS THERE.
.....!
YOU PRETENDED TO PLACE THE COIN UNDER A CUP BUT HELD IT BETWEEN YOUR THUMB AND YOUR PALM.
IN TRUTH, YOU HELD THE COIN THE ENTIRE TIME. IT WAS NEVER UNDER EITHER CUP.

THEN, WHEN LIFTING THE CUP I DIDN'T CHOOSE...
...YOU DROPPED THE COIN WITH PRECISE TIMING SO THAT IT WOULD LOOK AS IF THE COIN HAD BEEN UNDER THE CUP ALL ALONG.
TSK, TSK. A TEACHER USING SUCH TRICKERY AGAINST A STUDENT?
NOW HOW CAN I TRUST YOU LIKE THAT?
.....
I ASKED WHERE THE COIN WAS...
...NEVER UNDER WHICH CUP IT WAS PLACED.

WHAAAT? THAT'S A CHEAP TRICK!
HMPH.
NO MATTER.
I STILL WON. NOW YOU HAVE TO TELL ME...
...YOUR SECRET.
WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
HOW DO YOU KNOW FATHER?
.....

...BEFORE I BECAME A TEACHER...
...I LIVED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF WIENNER.
I WAS NOT A VIRTUOUS MAN IN THOSE DAYS.
MY HANDS WERE STAINED WITH SIN, FOR I LIVED A LIFE OF CRIME.

HUH...?
AT THE TIME, I WAS KNOWN AS ARSÈNE HEINE, THE GENTLEMAN THIEF.
ALWAYS, I SLIPPED THROUGH THE LAWMEN'S NETS. THE FORTUNES OF WIENNER WERE AT MY MERCY.
UNTIL "HE" APPEARED, THAT IS...!
HUH?
SHFF
STOP RIGHT THERE, HEINE!

*VIKTOR
...I, THE KING, WILL BRING YOU TO JUSTICE BY MINE OWN HAND!
IN THE NAME OF LAW AND ORDER...
*HEINE
BUT OUR GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE ENDS HERE!
I REALLY MUST COMMEND YOU FOR MAKING IT THIS FAR, VIKTOR.
RRRRUMBLE
TAKE THIS! GRANZ-REICH FINAL CURIO!!
IN WHAT WORLD IS THAT!?
Viktor's justice saves the kingdom! Thank you, dear readers, for all of your support!!

HOLD ON, NOW! YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD TELL THE TRUTH!
OH DEAR. I'VE GONE AND REOPENED OLD SCARS WITH THAT STORY.
HMPH.
I GUESSED WHERE THE COIN WAS CORRECTLY, DIDN'T I—?
WHAT THE...?
I IMPLORE YOU TO REDIRECT THE ENERGY BEHIND YOUR CURIOSITY ABOUT ME TOWARD YOUR STUDIES.
CLATTER
I AM THE VICTOR OF OUR GAME.

YOUR SHIFT IS ALMOST OVER, YES?
I WILL AWAIT YOU OUTSIDE.
W-WAIT! TEACH!
AH, AND ONE MORE THING.
MY PAY-MENT.
YOU WILL FIND IT IN YOUR POCKET, ALONG WITH THE COIN IN QUESTION.

.....
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.
YOU MAY KEEP THE COIN AS YOUR TIP.
COME AGAIN!
Kaffeehaus
Mitter Meyer
CLICK
I WILL HAVE TO REMEDY THAT...
I HAVE LET MY GUARD DOWN AROUND HIM RECENTLY.
PRINCE LICHT... SHARP AS A TACK, THAT BOY.
TEACH!
KACHAK

Y—
YOU KNOW ...
CLACK
...IF YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF IN A PINCH, YOU SHOULD TELL ME.
IF YOU TOLD ME EVERY-THING...
...I KNOW I COULD BE OF HELP TO YOU.
TO PAY YOU BACK FOR HELPING ME... TEACH.

SMACK
—SO!
THAT'S HOW IT IS!
.....
!
ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'LL GET YOU TO TELL ME WHO YOU REALLY ARE!
YEAH!
I'LL NEVER GIVE UP, SO YOU'D BEST GIVE IN!
CAFÉ MITTER MEYER.
MY PLACE OF RELAX-ATION.
.....
Kaffee haus
Mitter Meyer
NOW, WHERE'S THAT CARRIAGE?

IN THIS QUIET ESTABLISH-MENT, I DEVOTE MYSELF TO MY WORK WHILE SIPPING THE FINEST COFFEE...
...AND WATCHING OVER A PRINCE WHO WORKS IN SECRET.
I OWE THIS SPECIAL PLACE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE...
...FOR THE SLIGHT CHANGE IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

PRINCE LEONHARD.
THE SUN IS UP. PLEASE ROUSE YOURSELF.
IT IS TIME FOR OUR SPECIAL LESSON.
MM...
MMNH ...?
...KH...
HAAH
だらんぬ
FLOP
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
ぽよ
WAKE UP, NOW.
IT'S SEVEN O'CLOCK...
MMNH... MMH...
ぽてっ
FLOP

UP WITH YOU, LEON-HARD.
WHOOSH
FLING
FLING
Y-YOU CALLED, DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO!?
ZIP
HFF!
HFF!
I DID.
GOOD BOY.
.....

Chapter 22

Assistants to the King

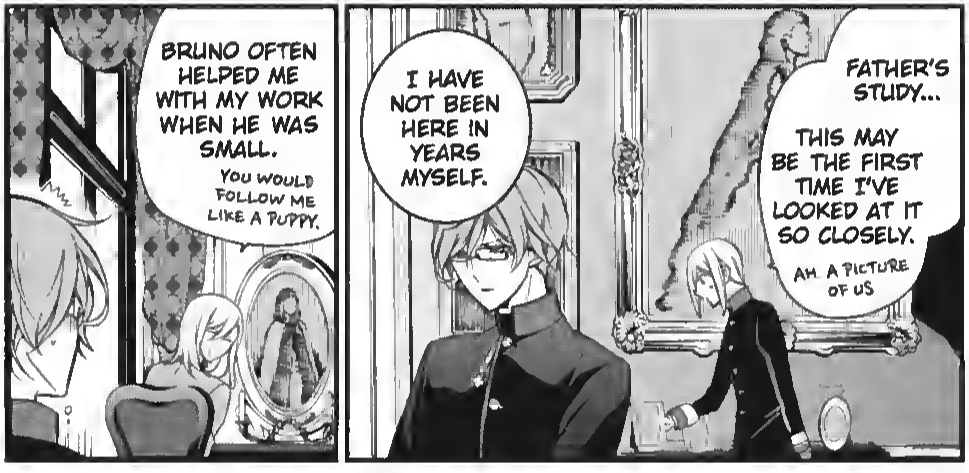
NOW THEN, AS I INFORMED YOU, TODAY'S LESSON IS A SPECIAL ONE.
BAM
THE BOTH OF YOU...
...WILL BE ASSISTING HIS MAJESTY THE KING WITH HIS DUTIES.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS LESSON IS TO TEACH YOU SOME OF THE DUTIES THAT AWAIT YOU AS CANDIDATES FOR THE THRONE.
NOW, I HAVE BEEN CALLING IT A LESSON, BUT WORK IS WORK.
PLEASE APPROACH IT WITH ALL SERIOUS-NESS.
...FATHER TOLD ME THAT I LACK FLEXI-BILITY...
...BUT I HAVE YET TO MOLD MYSELF INTO A FLEXIBLE THINKER.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, I WISH TO SHOW HIM THAT I AM FIT FOR THE JOB.
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY, DEAREST BROTHER.

BY ALL RIGHTS, I SHOULD HAVE BEEN DISQUALIFIED AFTER THE TEST FATHER HAD ME RETAKE.
I AM NOT SO SURE HE WILL LEAVE ANY WORK IN MY HANDS...
POKE
WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?
PRINCE LEONHARD...
DO NOT PUT IT IN A STORE! IT IS NOT FOR SALE!
RE-STORE MY REH-PEW-TAYSHUN?
THEN TODAY, YOU MUST RESTORE YOUR REPUTATION.
...R... REH-PEW-TAY-SHUN ...?
...LET US BE ON OUR WAY, THEN.
I HAVE BROUGHT THEM, YOUR MAJESTY.

KREAK
WELCOME, MY SONS...
WAVER
じり...
GLOMP
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP...!!
DODGE
DODGE
WH-WHY DO YOU AVOID ME...!?
SHOCK
I-IT WAS SO SUDDEN THAT INSTINCT TOOK OVER...
BDMP BDMP
FOR SHAME!
IT IS IMPROPER TO ACCOST SONS IN THEIR TEENAGE YEARS LIKE SO!
I WORRY FOR BOTH FATHER AND SONS...

GLANCE GLANCE
SIR ROYAL TUTOR ...
... WHERE ARE KAI AND LICHT?
UNCOMMONLY STRONG IMPULSE, THAT...
HO-HO... FORGIVE ME.
THE CHANCE TO WORK ALONGSIDE MY CHILDREN TOUCHED ME SO...I GAVE IN TO IMPULSE.
THIS WILL ALLOW THE PRINCES TO GAIN MORE FROM THE EXPERIENCE AS WELL.
I PLAN ON BRINGING THEM TO SEE YOUR MAJESTY ON ANOTHER DAY.
FOUR ASSISTANTS WOULD BE TOO CROWDED, I BELIEVE.
COME.
MY BIGGEST CONCERN IS THAT YOUR MAJESTY WOULD FOCUS MORE ON YOUR SONS THAN YOUR WORK.
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
OH? HOW UNFORTUNATE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIVELIER TO HAVE EVERYONE HERE.

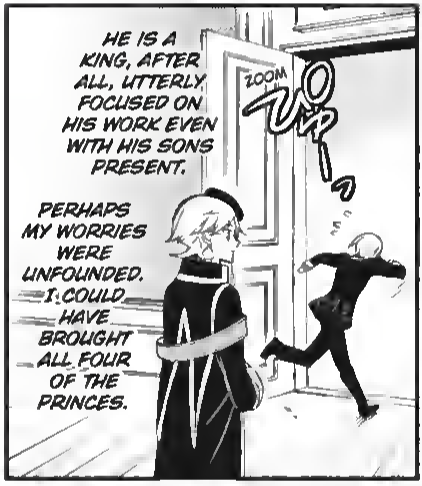

BRUNO OFTEN HELPED ME WITH MY WORK WHEN HE WAS SMALL.
YOU WOULD FOLLOW ME LIKE A PUPPY.
I HAVE NOT BEEN HERE IN YEARS MYSELF.
FATHER'S STUDY...
THIS MAY BE THE FIRST TIME I'VE LOOKED AT IT SO CLOSELY.
AH. A PICTURE OF US

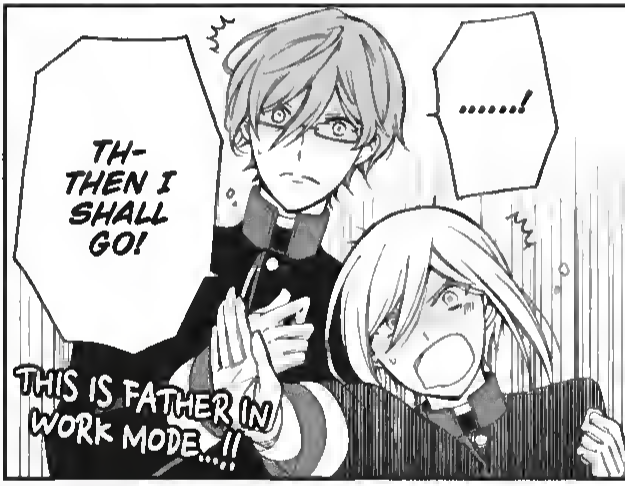
SO, LET US BEGIN.
HIS MAJESTY HAS MUCH TO WHICH HE MUST ATTEND. THEREFORE, I SHALL INSTRUCT YOU AND CHECK OVER YOUR WORK.
SHWOOP
TRULY? I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
M-MORE IMPORTANTLY, FATHER, WITH WHAT SHALL WE ASSIST YOU...?

BOOM...
THESE ARE THE DOCUMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN SIGNED BY HIS MAJESTY TODAY.
!!!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU BOYS.
.....
HNH...
PLEASE SORT THEM BY NAME AND ADDRESS AND PLACE THEM INSIDE THE CORRESPONDING ENVELOPES.
.....
MMPH!
S-SPLENDID. LET US DO OUR BEST, LEONHARD.

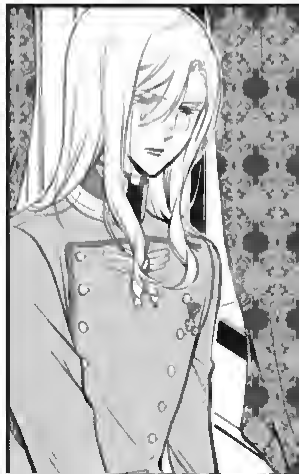
WE WORK AND WORK, AND STILL THERE IS NO END IN SIGHT...
IT'S A RELIEF THAT YOU DON'T NEED A BRAIN TO DO THIS JOB, AT LEAST.
ALL RIGHT! I'LL EARN FATHER'S PRAISE AND STORY MY REH-PEW-TAYSHUN!
...I NEED A BOOK.
U-UM...
WHICH OF US SHALL...?
I AM SORRY FOR MAKING YOU LEAVE THE BUILDING, BUT FETCH ME THIS BOOK FROM THE PRUNKSAAL.

EITHER OF YOU WILL DO.
MAKE IT QUICK.


HE IS A KING, AFTER ALL, UTTERLY FOCUSED ON HIS WORK EVEN WITH HIS SONS PRESENT.
ZOOM
PERHAPS MY WORRIES WERE UNFOUNDED. I COULD HAVE BROUGHT ALL FOUR OF THE PRINCES.

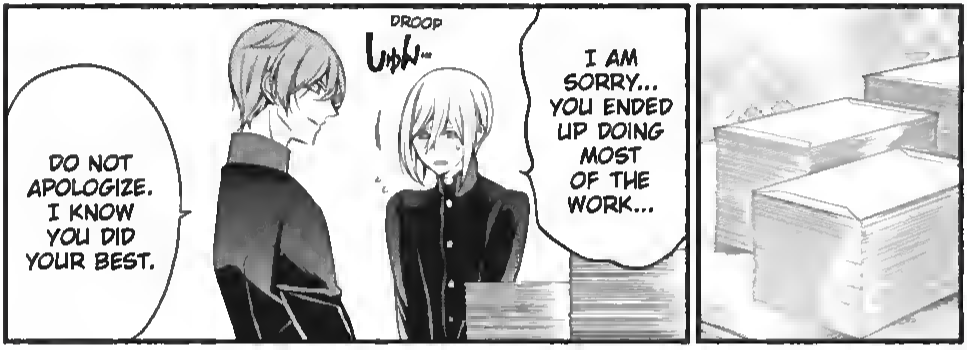

TH-THEN I SHALL GO!
.....!
THIS IS FATHER IN WORK MODE...!!

THANK THE HEAVENS I ONLY BROUGHT TWO.
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
WIPE WIPE
..THEY'VE GOTTEN SO BIG..



I-I'M TERRIBLY SORRY!
Y-YES, FATHER!
GO BACK AGAIN.
THIS IS THE WRONG BOOK.
.....
HFF! HFF!
F-FATHER! HERE IS THE BOOK!
DEAREST BROTHER
GIVE IT HERE, LEONHARD. I WILL GO.
INDEED.
TWEET TWEET TWEET
WOULD PRINCE BRUNO NOT BE MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE LIBRARY?
OH. THANK YOU, HEINE—
IT SHOULD GO IN THIS ONE
LAZE
STOP. THAT IS THE WRONG ENVELOPE.
ALL RIGHT!
SNATCH SNATCH
LAZE
PRINCE LEONHARD, PLEASE RETURN TO STUFFING ENVELOPES.
HMPH.
THIS IS STILL A LESSON, AND I AM STILL THE TEACHER.
WAIT, WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN HELPING!?

HUH? IF THIS GOES HERE, WHERE DOES THIS ONE GO? HUH? HUH??
HMM. CRIES OF ANGUISH ...
NEXT, I NEED YOU TO FETCH THESE DOCUMENTS FROM THE CONFERENCE ROOM.
YES, FATHER!
I HAVE THE BOOK, FATHER!


DROOP
DO NOT APOLOGIZE. I KNOW YOU DID YOUR BEST.
I AM SORRY... YOU ENDED UP DOING MOST OF THE WORK...

.....

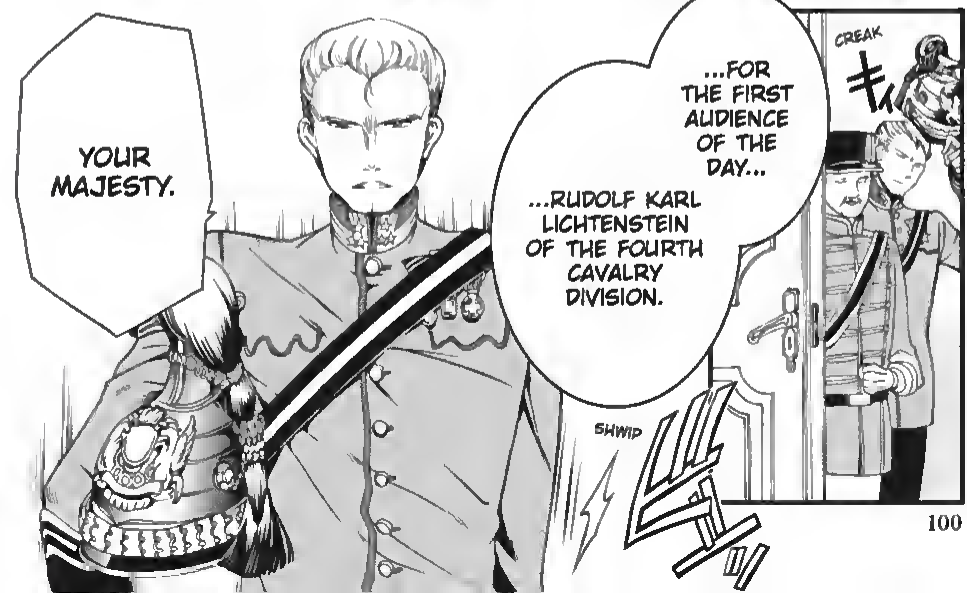
COMING, FATHER.
SHALL WE RE-LOCATE TO THE AUDIENCE CHAM-BER?
NOW, IT IS ALMOST TIME FOR ME TO RECEIVE AUDI-ENCES.

YOU MAKE A FINE ASSIS-TANT, BRUNO.
ALL OF THIS RUNNING AROUND MUST HAVE TIRED YOU.
A-AS LONG AS I WAS OF USE... IT IS AN HONOR TO ASSIST YOU...

WHOOSH
CHATTER
CHATTER
TH-THERE ARE SO MANY GROWN-UPS...
DO YOU SPEAK WITH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM?
YES. THE AUDIENCE CHAMBER IS A VALUABLE SPACE WHERE ONE MAY EXCHANGE IDEAS REGARDLESS OF SOCIAL STATUS.

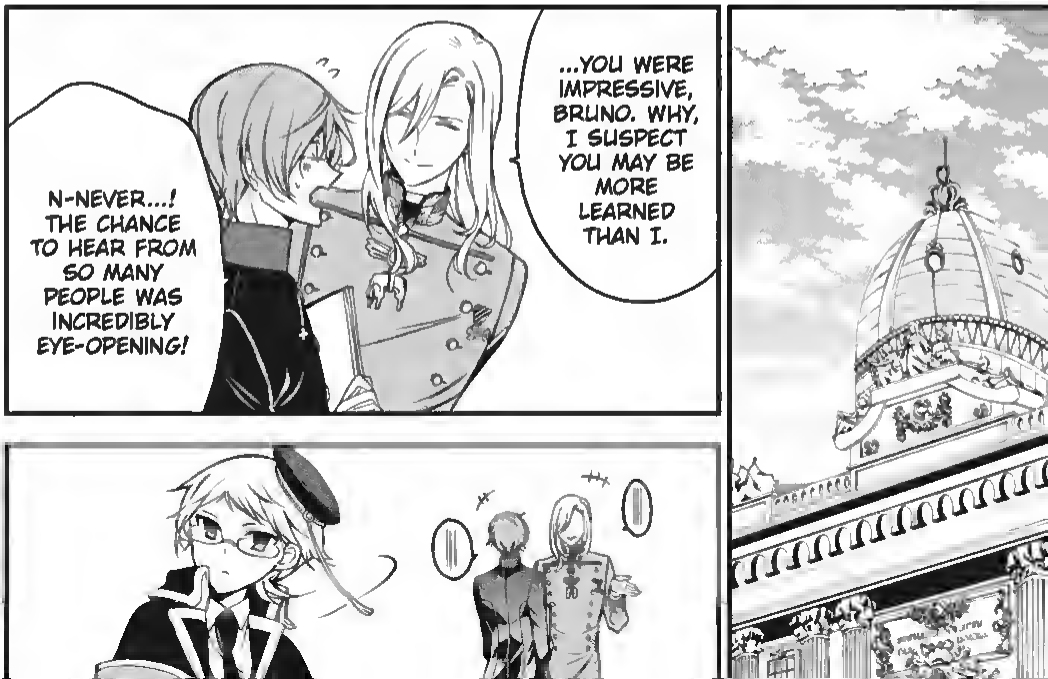
YOUR HIGHNESSES, YOU MAY STAND BEHIND AND OBSERVE.
EVEN LISTENING ALONE SHOULD PROVE TO BE A GOOD LESSON.
I ONLY SEE ABOUT ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE EACH DAY.
COME NOW, IT IS NOTHING TO GAPE AT.
ONE... HUN...!?

O-ONE... HUN-DRED...
FWP
OF COURSE! I AM READY TO LEARN...!


YOUR MAJESTY.
...RUDOLF KARL LICHTENSTEIN OF THE FOURTH CAVALRY DIVISION.
...FOR THE FIRST AUDIENCE OF THE DAY...
CREAK
SHWIP

WHILE I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR SENTIMENT, MODERN WARFARE IS COMMANDED BY CANNONS, WHILE CAVALRY UNITS ARE RELEGATED ONLY TO THE ROLE OF SCOUTING.
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
HOWEVER, KNOW THAT THE CAVALRY WILL NOT BE DISSOLVED OVER-NIGHT.
IT IS MY INTENT THAT...
THE CAVALRY IS A PROUD AND STORIED ARM OF THE MILITARY. I CANNOT WATCH IT DIE OFF...
A FEW DAYS AGO, THE SIZE AND BUDGET OF THE CAVALRY WAS DRASTICALLY REDUCED.
BUT OF COURSE. I WILL COME TO OBSERVE TRAINING AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
I BEG YOUR LEAVE.
I AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HEAR YOUR MAJESTY'S THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER.
HMM.
RECENTLY, WE HEAR OF A DETERIORATION IN THE WORKING CONDITIONS IN TOWN. PERHAPS IF THERE WERE NEW LEGISLATION...
I HOPE THIS DAY FINDS YOU WELL, YOUR MAJESTY.
...COUNT MICHAEL VON SCHILLER.
THE SECOND AUDI-ENCE...
AHEM...
!?
EH!?
WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE DONE, MY SONS?

HUH...? DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO'S ANSWER IS DREADFULLY COMPLI-CATED...
UH... UHH...
FIRST, AN INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED, WITH THE FINDINGS DIVIDED INTO INDUSTRY, AGE, AND SEX...
THOUGH IT MAY BE PRESUMP-TUOUS OF ME, IF I MAY STATE MY OPINION...
FLIP
HUUUH?


N-NEVER...! THE CHANCE TO HEAR FROM SO MANY PEOPLE WAS INCREDIBLY EYE-OPENING!
...YOU WERE IMPRESSIVE, BRUNO. WHY, I SUSPECT YOU MAY BE MORE LEARNED THAN I.

WAAAH!
WHOO-HOO!
Y-YES... I JUST COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH EVERYTHING THAT FATHER AND DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO SAID...
...ARE YOU QUITE ALL RIGHT?
ACK!
PRINCE LEON-HARD...
YES...IT DID APPEAR AS THOUGH YOUR SOUL WERE DRIFTING OUT OF YOUR BODY...
AS IF I WERE DRIFTING AWAY...
EH HEH HEH
THE LONGER IT WENT ON, THE MORE DAZED I FELT...

.....
HAAH.
STORYING ONE'S REPUTATION IS HARD.
I HAVEN'T EARNED EVEN A SHRED OF PRAISE FROM FATHER.
BRUNO TRULY IS AMAZING...
.....
...I BELIEVE YOU MEAN "RESTORING ONE'S REPUTATION."
EH!?
!?
CREAK
キィ
THIS IS THE FINAL AUDIENCE OF THE DAY.
FRÄULEIN MARIE GRASS, PROPRIETOR OF A FABRIC SHOP.
N-NICE TO— I MEAN...
IT'S AN HONOR TO STAND IN YOUR MAJESTY'S PRESENCE ...!

NICE TO MEET YOU.
U-UM...
I'VE COME TO ASK A FAVOR...
MIGHT IT BE POSSIBLE ...
...TO BORROW MONEY FROM THE KINGDOM?
THIS IS LACE. IT'S A FAMOUS WAY OF TATTING FROM THE ISLANDS OF VENIZIA. I LEARNED IT FROM MY MOTHER.
I'M LIKELY TO BE THE ONLY PERSON IN THE KINGDOM OF GRANZREICH WHO KNOWS HOW TO MAKE IT...
HOH...?
I-I HAVEN'T COME WITHOUT REASON, OF COURSE!
PLEASE LOOK AT THIS.
I WANTED TO SHOW MORE PEOPLE THE BEAUTY OF MY MOTHER'S LACE.
SO I BEGAN TO SELL IT. I TURNED MY HOME, OLD AS IT IS, INTO A SHOP.

ONE DAY, I FOUND A LARGE CRACK IN THE WALL.
THE REPAIRMAN SAYS THE ENTIRE WALL HAS TO BE REBUILT, OR BEFORE LONG IT WON'T BE SAFE TO USE FOR MY STORE...
I THOUGHT ABOUT BORROWING THE MONEY FOR THE REPAIRS FROM OTHER SHOPS IN THE AREA.
BUT THEY ALL HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL AS IT IS. I DON'T THINK THEY'LL HAVE ANYTHING TO SPARE...
BUT I'VE ONLY JUST BECOME ABLE TO LIVE OFF MY SALES...
IT...
IT WOULD BREAK MY HEART TO LOSE THAT SHOP!
PLEASE, HELP ME...!
.....
...I'M AFRAID TO SAY THAT THE KINGDOM CANNOT LEND MONEY TO PRIVATE BUSINESSES.
NOT WITHOUT NEW LAWS IN PLACE.

...I AM TRULY SORRY.
I WILL BRING THIS MATTER BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT, BUT EVEN IF THEY WERE TO APPROVE IT, IT WOULD TAKE TIME FOR THE LAWS TO BE PUT IN PLACE.
I CANNOT OFFER YOU ANY AID AT THIS TIME.
N-NO...
I...I UNDER-STAND... .....
...GOOD DAY.
...FOR LENDING AN EAR TO MY STORY.
THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY...
THE KINGDOM CANNOT MAKE EX-CEPTIONS FOR ANY SINGLE PERSON.
WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THE OTHER SHOP-KEEPERS WILL LEND HER A SUM.
.....
...ISN'T THERE ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE DEAREST BROTHER?
...LIKELY NOT.
.....

JUST A PASSING THOUGHT— THAT'S ALL!
BUT—!
N-NO! IT'S NOTHING!
FLAIL FLAIL FLAIL FLAIL
ぽぽぽぽ
OH MY
...YOU SEEM TO WANT TO SAY SOMETHING.
N-NO ONE...
...WOULD WANT TO HEAR...
...ANY SILLY IDEA OF MINE ANYWAY...
IT'S PROBABLY COMPLETELY OFF THE MARK.
I DON'T WANT TO EMBARRASS FATHER BY LOOKING LIKE A FOOL IN FRONT OF THOSE GROWN-UPS...

H-HEINE!?
SHOVE SHOVE
YOUR HIGHNESS IS A FOOL INDEED.
!
YANK
HMPH!
YOU WILL NOT KNOW IF YOU ARE OFF THE MARK UNLESS YOU SPEAK UP, WILL YOU?
I, AT LEAST, WISH TO HEAR...
...YOUR HIGH-NESS'S JUDG-MENT.
.....HEINE...

BAM
WAIT!!
LEON-HARD...?
DASH

YOU SAID THAT IT'S NOT JUST YOU BUT ALL OF THE SHOPS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD THAT CAN'T SAVE UP MONEY, YES?
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
HUH?
JAB
...CAN'T YOU WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM!?

E-EH!?
IF YOU ALL PITCHED IN A LITTLE BIT OF MONEY EVERY MONTH...
...THEN YOU COULD USE IT WHENEVER ONE OF YOU NEEDS HELP!

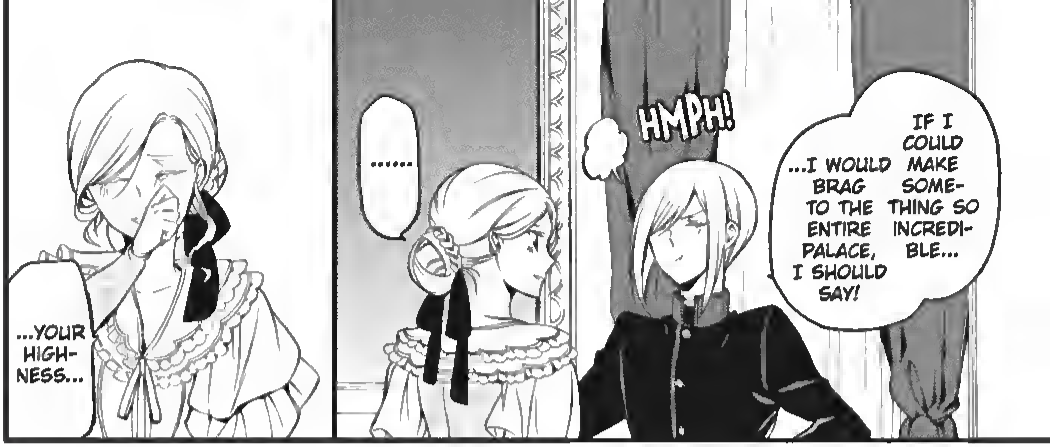
I'M ONLY ALLOWED ONE TORTE PER DAY.
BUT I WANT TO EAT TORTE UNTIL MY TUMMY'S FULL.
SO EACH DAY, I PUT ONE AWAY IN A CUPBOARD, AND WHEN I HAVE ENOUGH SAVED UP, I CAN EAT TEN ALL AT ONCE.
IT'S LIKE THAT, ISN'T IT?

.....
HIS INSPIRATION IS ABSURD.
THE IDEA ITSELF, HOWEVER...

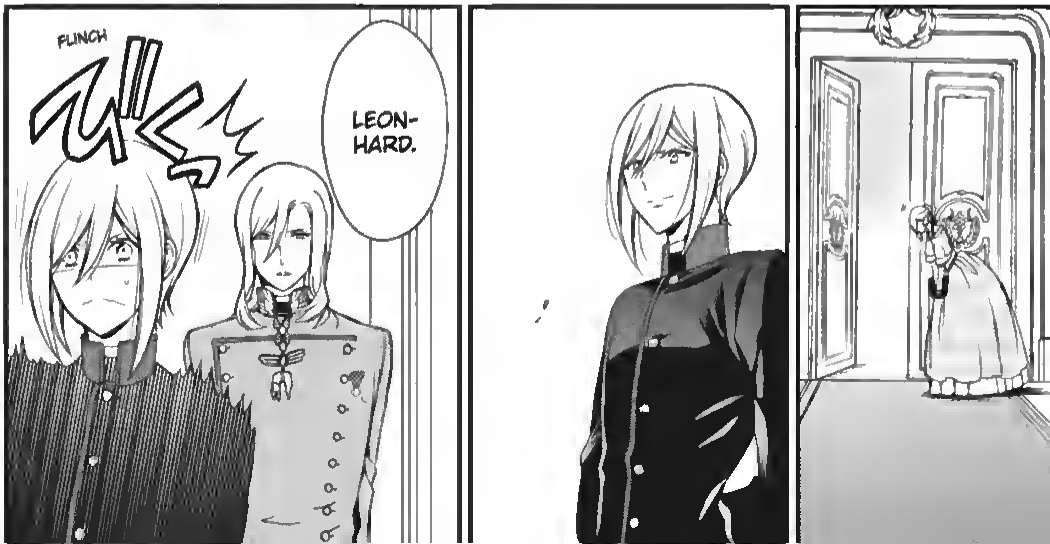
THAT'S RIGHT...NONE OF US KNOW WHEN WE MIGHT SUDDENLY RUN INTO TROUBLE LIKE I HAVE...
IF WE HAD A POOL OF MONEY...
...THERE WOULD BE A SAFETY NET FOR ALL OF US, NOT JUST ME!

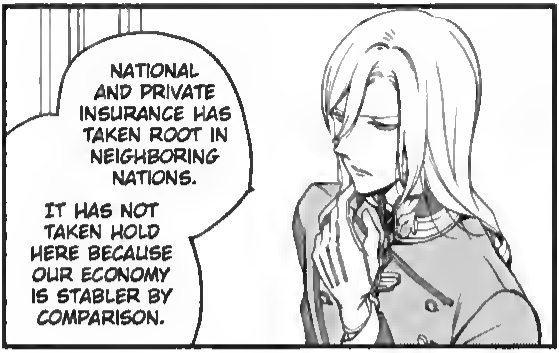
I'LL DISCUSS IT WITH THEM AS SOON AS I GET HOME!
A-ALSO —!
CAN I HAVE THAT LACE?
EH?
...I THINK MY SISTER WOULD LIKE IT.

...LOOK WHAT YOU CAN MAKE! IT'S AMAZING!
I THINK YOU SHOULD HOLD YOUR HEAD HIGH AND KEEP AT IT!
IF SHE DOES...
...THE PALACE WILL ORDER SOME.
UM... I KNOW THAT...
...YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME, BUT, UM...

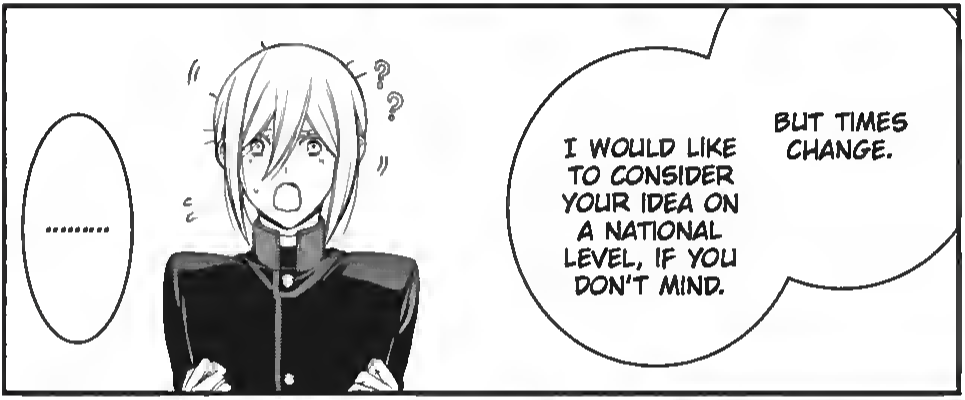


THANK YOU SO MUCH...!

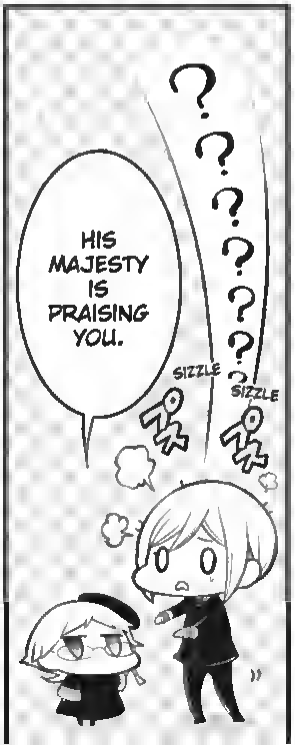


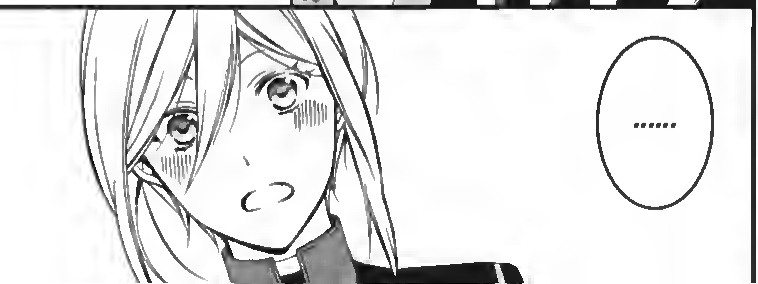

NATIONAL AND PRIVATE INSURANCE HAS TAKEN ROOT IN NEIGHBORING NATIONS.
IT HAS NOT TAKEN HOLD HERE BECAUSE OUR ECONOMY IS STABLER BY COMPARISON.

YOU DID NOT.
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY FOR SPEAKING OUT OF PLACE!
BOW!
BOW

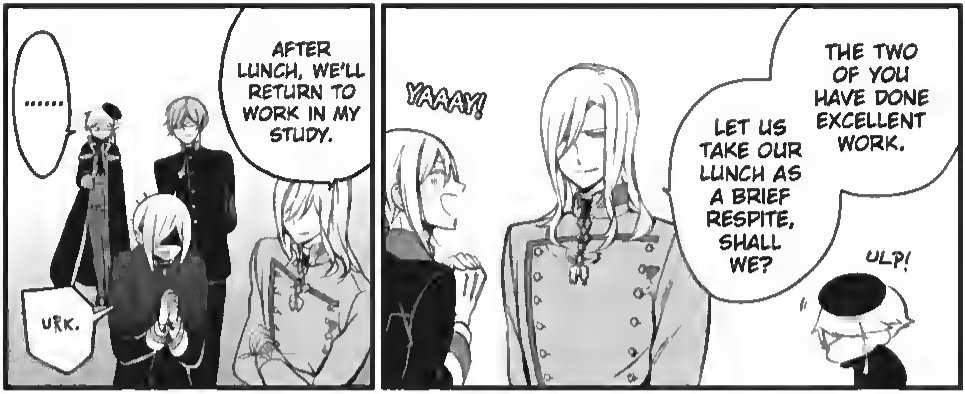

.....
I WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER YOUR IDEA ON A NATIONAL LEVEL, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
BUT TIMES CHANGE.

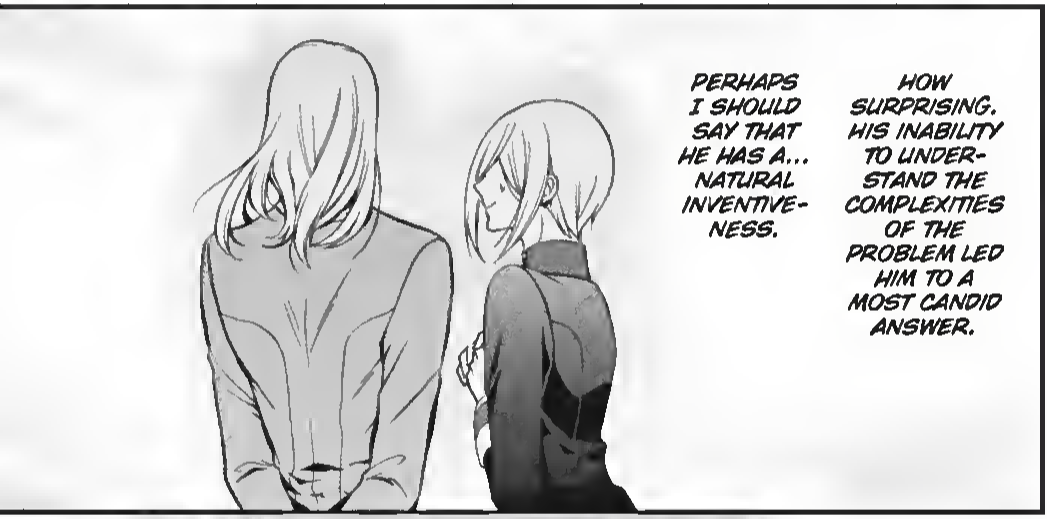
EXEM-PLARY WORK...
...PRINCE LEON-HARD.


HIS MAJESTY IS PRAISING YOU.
SIZZLE
SIZZLE


.....

DID YOU SEE ME, HEINE? YAY! YAY!
PUT ME DOWN!
I... I DID IT! I EARNED FATHER'S PRAISE!!
UWA AHN!
.....
I'M IM-PRESSED...
...LEON-HARD.
...INCREDI-BLE.
HOW MARVELOUS FOR YOU-U-U.
SHAKE
SHAKE
EH-HEH-HEEEH!!!
SHAKE
DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO PRAISED ME TOOOO!


AFTER LUNCH, WE'LL RETURN TO WORK IN MY STUDY.
.....
URK.
YAAAY!
LET US TAKE OUR LUNCH AS A BRIEF RESPITE, SHALL WE?
THE TWO OF YOU HAVE DONE EXCELLENT WORK.
ULP!


PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY THAT HE HAS A... NATURAL INVENTIVE-NESS.
HOW SURPRISING. HIS INABILITY TO UNDER-STAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE PROBLEM LED HIM TO A MOST CANDID ANSWER.

PERHAPS THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM OF GRANZREICH...
...IS BUDDING BEFORE ME, LITTLE BY LITTLE...
FROM HIS GRADES ALONE, ONE WOULD THINK HIM THE FUR-THEST FROM THE THRONE. AND YET...
.....

WHO WILL SUCCEED THE THRONE? THIS HAS BECOME MOST INTRIGUING...
.....

.....
...I THOUGHT ...
...HE WOULD ALWAYS BE BEHIND ME...
...ALWAYS...

Chapter 23

Where Dreams Lie

MAY I WATCH YOU WORK, FATHER!?
FWIP
A THOUSAND APOLOGIES. I DID NOT INTEND TO SPY.
SUPER-SERIOUS
YES, YOU CERTAINLY MAY.
SIT.
TWINKLE
FU FU.
Y-YES, FATHER!
I MAY?
IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF YOU WOULD READ IT ALOUD FOR ME.
YOU ARE SO GOOD AT YOUR STUDIES. CAN YOU READ THIS?

ONE DAY, WHEN I'M GROWN...
...I'LL BE A GRAND KING LIKE FATHER.....
THIS IS THE KIND OF WORK FATHER DOES EVERY DAY TO KEEP THE KINGDOM IN ORDER.
HOW INCREDIBLE, FATHER...
BLUSH
ぽぉ
BRILLIANT, ISN'T HE? THE ELDEST PRINCE, HIS HIGHNESS EINS.
HE IS A BORN GENIUS.
I HEAR THAT, AT THE MERE AGE OF TEN, HE WAS STUDYING ON THE LEVEL OF A SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD.
HE IS EVEN AT THE TOP OF HIS CLASS IN MILITARY ACADEMY, BOTH IN ACADEMICS AND MILITARY TRAINING.
FWIP
ばっ
OCCASIONALLY HE SAYS THE MOST ASTOUNDING THINGS...
...BUT HE IS IMPRESSIVELY IMAGINATIVE, AS WELL AS PERSUASIVE. ABSOLUTELY CHARMING...

PRINCE EINS IS A SHOO-IN FOR THE NEXT KING.
I HAVE TO STUDY LOTS AND LOTS.
I HAVE TO BEAT EINS.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN "GENIUS."

...ONE THING HAS NOT CHANGED: EVERYONE IS SURE THAT EINS WILL BE THE NEXT KING.
EVEN NOW THAT MANY PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGE MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS...
SINCE THAT MOMENT, I'VE BEEN STUDYING IN A FRENZY.
IF THERE ARE TRULY PEOPLE BLESSED WITH A "BORN GENIUS"...
...THEN ARE MY EFFORTS POINTLESS, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I POUR INTO THEM?
IF I WERE TO CATCH UP TO MY "GENIUS" OF A BROTHER...
...WOULD THEY SIMPLY CALL ME ANOTHER "GENIUS"?

...WHAT IF YOU ARE A "BORN GENIUS," THE SAME AS EINS? IF YOU ARE, THEN...
I...
I HAD NEVER CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY BEFORE, BUT, LEONHARD...
—YOUR HIGH-NESS.
PRINCE BRUNO.

ARE YOU QUITE ALL RIGHT, PRINCE BRUNO?

DO YOU FEEL ILL AT ALL?
.....
N-NO. THAT IS NOT THE CASE...
FOR YOU TO DOZE WHILST I READ A THESIS OF YOURS...
WHY, YOU ARE THE LAST PERSON I WOULD EXPECT TO DO SO.

SLUUUSH
Y-YOU WORRIED FOR ME, MASTER?
.....!
I AM QUITE CONCERNED BY THIS ATYPICAL BEHAVIOR, YOU KNOW.
I CALLED YOUR NAME SEVERAL TIMES, BUT YOU MADE NO RESPONSE.
BAM
BAM
BAM
AH, NO...
I SHOULD CLARIFY THAT HIS BEHAVIOR IS ALWAYS ATYPICAL...
I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS! TO THINK THAT I TROUBLED MY MASTER— UNACCEPTABLE! I AM DESPICABLE!!!
NOW, LET US DISCUSS THIS THESIS OF YOURS...
...“THE MODERN MONARCHY.”
COME NOW, IT IS NO MATTER. RAISE YOUR HEAD.
DRAG

MY, MY. YOU ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY, YOUR HIGHNESS?
I-I AM NOT ENROLLED, NO.
H-HOW DID YOU FIND IT?
I AM TO PRESENT IT TWO WEEKS FROM NOW AT THE UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC CONFERENCE.

I VISITED WIENNER UNIVERSITY AFTER HEARING THAT ONE DOCTOR DMITRI FROM OROSZ, A SOCIOLOGY SCHOLAR WHOM I RESPECT...
...WAS TO GIVE A LECTURE AT WIENNER UNIVERSITY.
BUT WHEN I ARRIVED, HIS LECTURE HAD BEEN CANCELED BECAUSE OF A CHANGE IN HIS SCHEDULE.

THAT VISIT LED TO ME RECEIVING GUIDANCE FROM THE PROFESSORS THERE IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY.
GOODNESS. YOU HAVE BEEN BUSY.
.....!
AH!

AS THIS CURRENT THESIS COVERS A DIFFICULT THEME, I HOPED THAT YOU WOULD PROFFER ME YOUR ADVICE.
HMM... YES, IF I HAD TO SAY...
REST ASSURED THAT YOU ARE MY ONE AND ONLY MASTER!
My STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY ARE MERELY TO BROADEN MY HORIZONS! YOUR LESSONS HERE AT THE PALACE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO ME...
AH... I SEE. THANK YOU...
HE NEEDN'T BE SO INSISTENT...
LOOM
ON THE WHOLE, IT IS CLEARLY STILL IN THE ROUGH DRAFT STAGE.
I MARKED THEM FOR YOU.
WHAT!?
MOREOVER, IT IS RIFE WITH MISSPELLINGS.
NOR DO YOU OFFER A NEW OPINION ON HOW SOCIETY SHOULD FACE THE RECENTLY-GROWING TREND TOWARD NATIONALISM.
YOUR COMMENTS ON ETHNIC ISSUES ARE SIMPLY A REHASHING OF A PREVIOUS THESIS.
!

CLATTER
.....
HUH? AND THESE...
???
LET'S SEE. HERE I
I-I COULD NOT HAVE MADE SUCH AMATEUR MISTAKES ...!
PRINCE BRUNO...
PAT
...HAS SOMETHING BEEN DISTRACTING YOU?
W-WELL, I... I...
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGELY SINCE OUR SPECIAL LESSON.
.....

I UNDERSTAND THAT SOMETHING WEIGHS ON YOUR MIND.
IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO TELL ME, I WILL NOT FORCE YOU.
.....
I-I AM SO ASHAMED...
HMPH
PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE IS A TIME LIMIT OF TWO WEEKS.
...HOWEVER, IT IS PROBLEMATIC THAT YOU CANNOT SEEM TO AT LEAST CONCENTRATE ON THIS THESIS.
POINT
!?
.....
YES... I BELIEVE I HAVE COME UPON A SOLUTION.

—THIS IS WHAT WE SHALL DO, PRINCE BRUNO.
BEFORE YOUR PRESENTATION TWO WEEKS FROM NOW...
...YOU WILL PRODUCE THIS THESIS IN ITS FINAL FORM FOR ME TO READ.
IF IT IS NOT WRITTEN TO MY STANDARDS...
...THEN YOU...

...ARE NO LONGER MY APPREN-TICE!
—!
BOOOM
!!

...TOOK ON AN APPRENTICE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
NOT THAT I EVER...
ぬ
GONG
ーーーん

I'LL STRIP YOU OF YOUR RIGHT TO THE THRONE UNLESS YOU SCORE 60 OR MORE!
SHOCK!
LEONHARD, TRAUMATIZED
STILL, THIS MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO PUSH HIM TO FOCUS WHOLLY ON HIS THESIS.
VIKTOR USED THE SAME TACTIC WITH PRINCE LEONHARD.

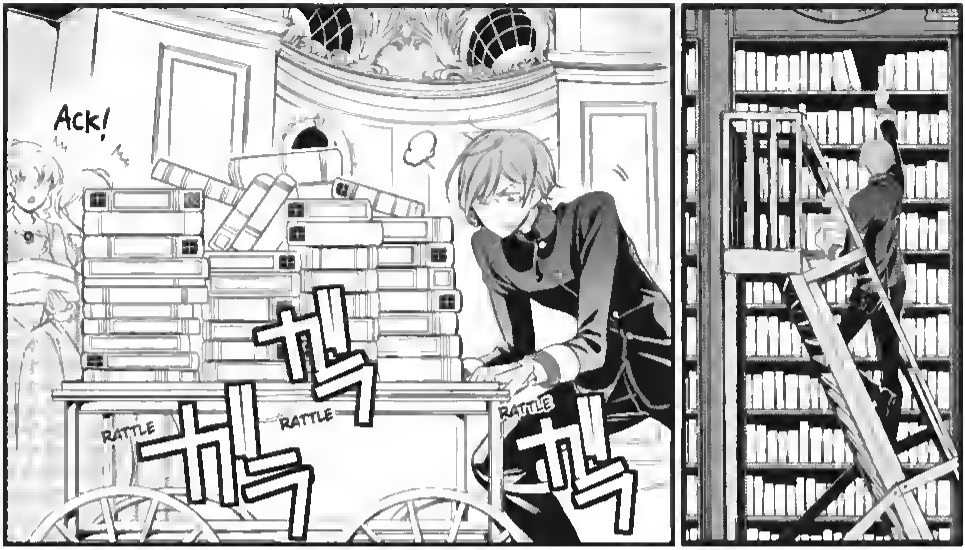
.....

FORGIVE ME, PRINCE BRUNO.
PLEASE, MASTER! DO NOT ABANDON ME!
WAAAH!
WHAT THE DEUCE DO I DO?
ALTHOUGH I ADMIT THAT THIS MAY BE A BIT HARSH ON THE LAD...

!!
TO THINK THAT YOU HAVE BEEN EXPECTING SO MUCH OF ME AS YOUR APPREN-TICE...
AT THIS MOMENT, I, BRUNO, COULD DIE WITH NO REGRETS!
うおおお

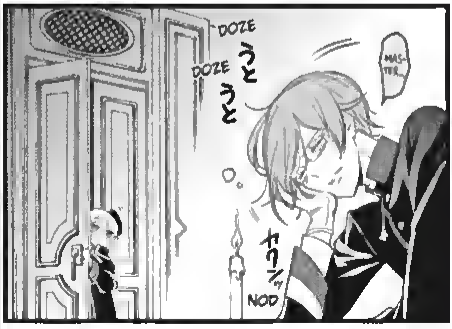
.....
I SWEAR THAT I, BRUNO, WILL NOT DISAPPOINT YOU!
WORRY NO LONGER, MASTER!
HA
HAHA
YES! I AM READY TO WRITE!!
...ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT HIS MOTIVATION HAS REVIVED.
I WAS NOT EXPECTING THAT REACTION...
...WELL, AT ANY RATE...
DO YOUR BEST...
...PRINCE BRUNO.....
I CANNOT DO EVERY-THING FOR HIM.
HAAH

...AND POUR ALL OF MYSELF INTO MY WRITING...
I WILL PRIORITIZE THE IMMEDIATE...
MASTER IS CORRECT. FOR THE TIME BEING, I MUST SET ASIDE MY ANXIETIES OVER THE LINE OF SUCCESSION.
KACHAK
THIS TIME WILL BE NO DIFFERENT...!
THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE METHOD BEHIND MY SUCCESS.


Ack!
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

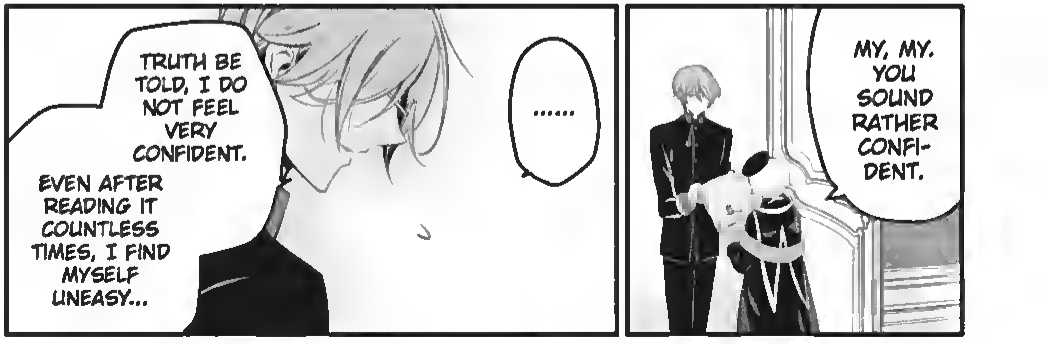
NOD
DOZE
DOZE
MAS-TER

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE


DOZE
DOZE
MAS-TER
NOD

AND SO, THE MORNING TWO WEEKS LATER...
LURCH
ぼ
3
M... MAS- TER...
YOU LOOK GHASTLY...
GOOD HEAVENS
I WILL ATTEND TO MY APPEARANCE BEFORE I LEAVE FOR THE UNIVERSITY.
I BEG YOUR PARDON, MASTER
hyu~
SHP

MASTER ...
...I WILL PROVE MY WORTHI- NESS AS YOUR APPREN- TICE...
WHOOSH
...WITH THIS THESIS.

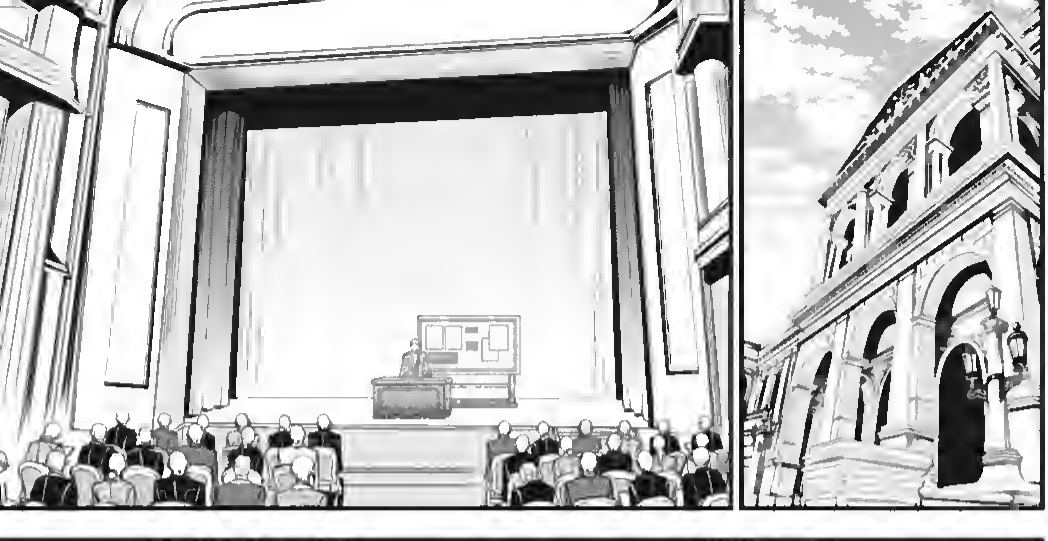

MY, MY. YOU SOUND RATHER CONFI- DENT.
.....
TRUTH BE TOLD, I DO NOT FEEL VERY CONFIDENT.
EVEN AFTER READING IT COUNTLESS TIMES, I FIND MYSELF UNEASY...

BUT I PUT MY ENTIRE BEING INTO IT.
THAT MUCH I CAN SAY WITH CONFIDENCE.
I SHALL READ IT, THEN.
.....
TAP
TAP
...H...
...HOW DID YOU FIND IT...?

MOST EXCEL-LENT.
...QUITE FRANKLY, YOU'VE EXCEEDED MY EXPEC-TATIONS.
YOUR PROPOSAL REGARDING HOW SOCIETAL ORDER OUGHT TO BE KEPT IS QUITE NOVEL.
RECOM-MENDING DEMOCRACY WITHOUT REMOVING THE MONAR-CHY...
YOUR THOUGHTS ON ETHNIC ISSUES HAVE ALSO GROWN MORE PROFOUND. I FEEL THAT I KNOW MORE FROM READING THIS.
BLINK BLINK
D...
DO YOU MEAN...?

I AM PROUD TO HAVE YOU AS MY APPREN-TICE.
YES. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD...
...TO PRESENT THIS THESIS.

WHOOM
I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF, FROM NOW ON, YOU WOULD ADDRESS ME AS AN ORDINARY TEACHER—
WELL, CALLING YOU MY APPRENTICE IS LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN CALLING YOU MY PUPIL.
MASTER!
THANK YOU, MASTER!
I SWEAR THAT, AS YOUR APPRENTICE, I SHALL NOT EMBARRASS YOU!
I'LL BE ON MY WAY!
HE HAS RETURNED TO HIS NORMAL SELF QUITE COMPLETELY.
...GOODNESS GRACIOUS.
UOOOH! I DID IT! I DID IIIIT!
.....
TMP TMP TMP



NOW THAT THE PRESENTATION IS BEFORE ME, I CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL NERVOUS.
FIDGET
FIDGET

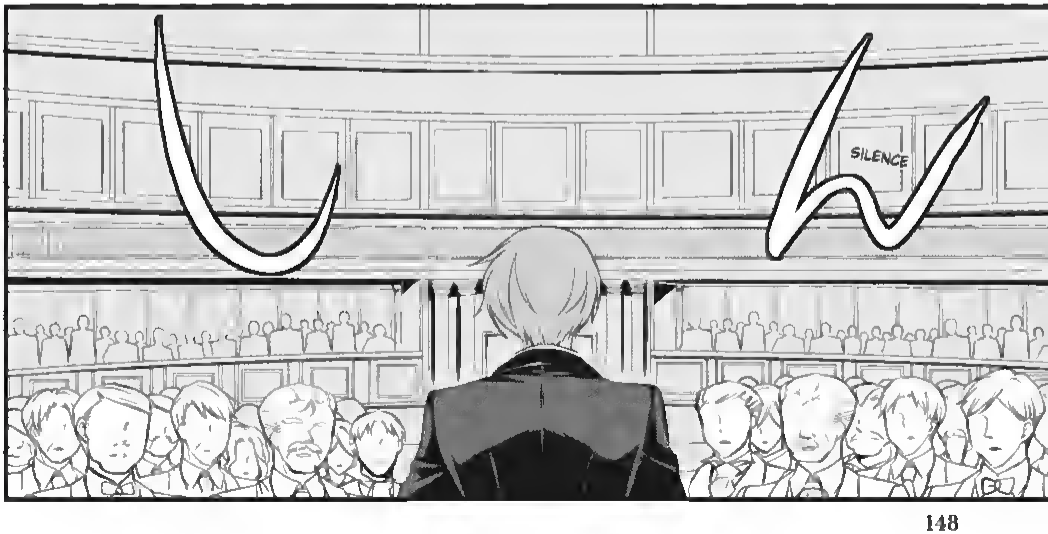
HEH.
I WAS NOT BORN WITH ANY SPECIAL TALENTS.
IF NOT FOR MY TITLE OF THIRD PRINCE, I WOULD BE A COMPLETELY ORDINARY COMMONER.
THERE IS SOMETHING I HAVE KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS.
IS MY BROTHER EINS, THE "GENIUS"...
...BOLD AND CONFIDENT EVEN IN TIMES SUCH AS THIS?

THAT IS PRECISELY WHY I PUSH MYSELF TO WORK TENS OF TIMES HARDER THAN OTHERS.
I KNOW THAT IS THE ONLY WAY FOR ME TO BECOME SOMEONE SPECIAL ENOUGH TO MOVE THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE.

...AND MOST OF ALL, FOR MY OWN SAKE...
AS A PRINCE...
...AS AN APPRENTICE WHO WILL NOT EMBARRASS HIS MASTER...

—IN ORDER TO UPHOLD BOTH LIBERTY AND ORDER IN OUR SOCIETY...
...I BELIEVE IT WILL BECOME MOST IMPORTANT FOR OUR NATION'S SOCIETY TO VALUE THOSE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS.
...THAT IS ALL.

YOU HAVE BEEN A FINE AUDIENCE. THANK YOU.


SILENCE

...IT WAS USELESS, AFTER ALL, FOR ONE SO ORDINARY AS MYSELF...
NO MATTER HOW HARD I WORK, I WILL NEVER BE SHOWERED WITH PRAISE FROM THE MASSES... NEVER...
.....
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

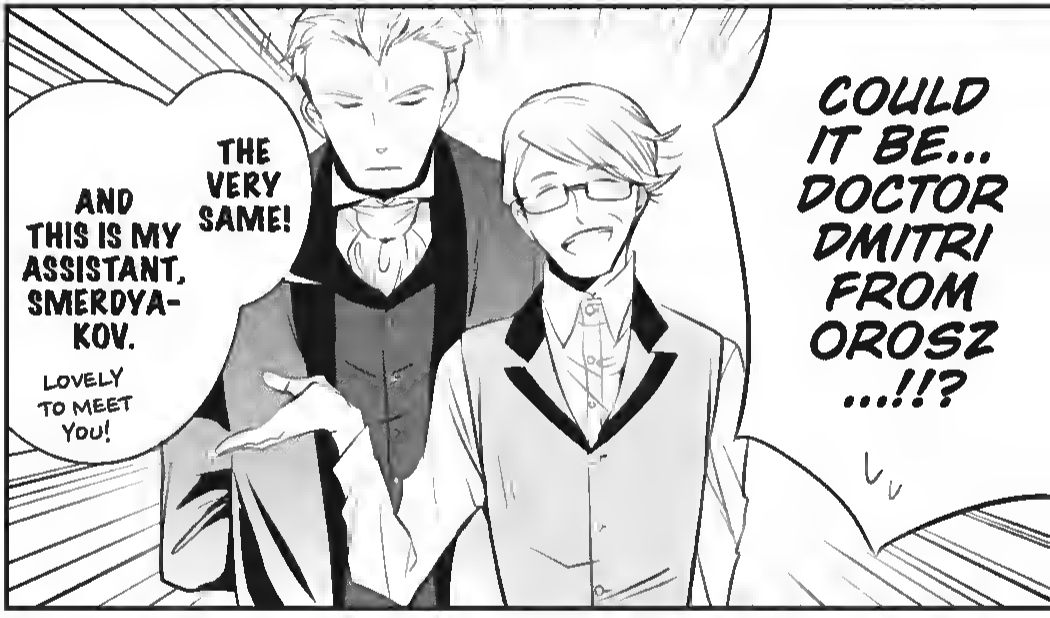
CLAP
ROAR
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
...!?

THANK GOOD-NESS...
...I DID IT...
QUIVER
QUIVER
QUIVER
.....
I DID IT... MY EFFORT PAID OFF...!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
...PRINCE BRUNO.
THAT WAS INCREDIBLE...

THANK YOU, EVERYONE. LET US SPEAK, ONE AT A TIME.
YOUR HIGHNESS, WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO CONSIDER SPEAKING AT MY UNIVERSITY NEXT MONTH?
I AS WELL, PRINCE.
PRINCE BRUNO! IF YOU HAVE THE TIME, I WOULD LOVE TO ASK FOR MORE DETAILS.
STEP
SWOOSH
A-AHEM...
A MILITARY MAN...?
...!?
LOOM

AHH, IT'S POSITIVELY SPLENDID TO MEET YOU, YOUNG BRUNO!
ぶんぶん
WAVE
GREAT WORK UP THERE!
ひょい
POKE
I SEE YOU HAVE YOUR MOTHER'S LOOKS, MM-HM. YOU'RE OF INCREDIBLE STOCK.
ぺらぺらぺらぺら
BABBLE BABBLE BABBLE BABBLE
WELL, YOU DO COME FROM FINE-LOOKING PARENTS.
MY STARS, BUT YOU ARE A HANDSOME YOUNG FELLOW UP CLOSE!
GOOD-NESS ME.
I'D HEARD THAT YOU ARE A FAN OF MINE, YOU KNOW.
...YOUR HAIR NEEDS FIXING.
DOC-TOR...
ALSO, YOUR GLASSES ARE CROOKED.
EH?
P-PARDON ME, BUT YOU ARE...?

.....!
G-GOOD-NESS...
SMIRK
RECOGNIZE ME NOW?


COULD IT BE... DOCTOR DMITRI FROM OROSZ ...!!?
THE VERY SAME!
AND THIS IS MY ASSISTANT, SMERDYA-KOV.
LOVELY TO MEET YOU!

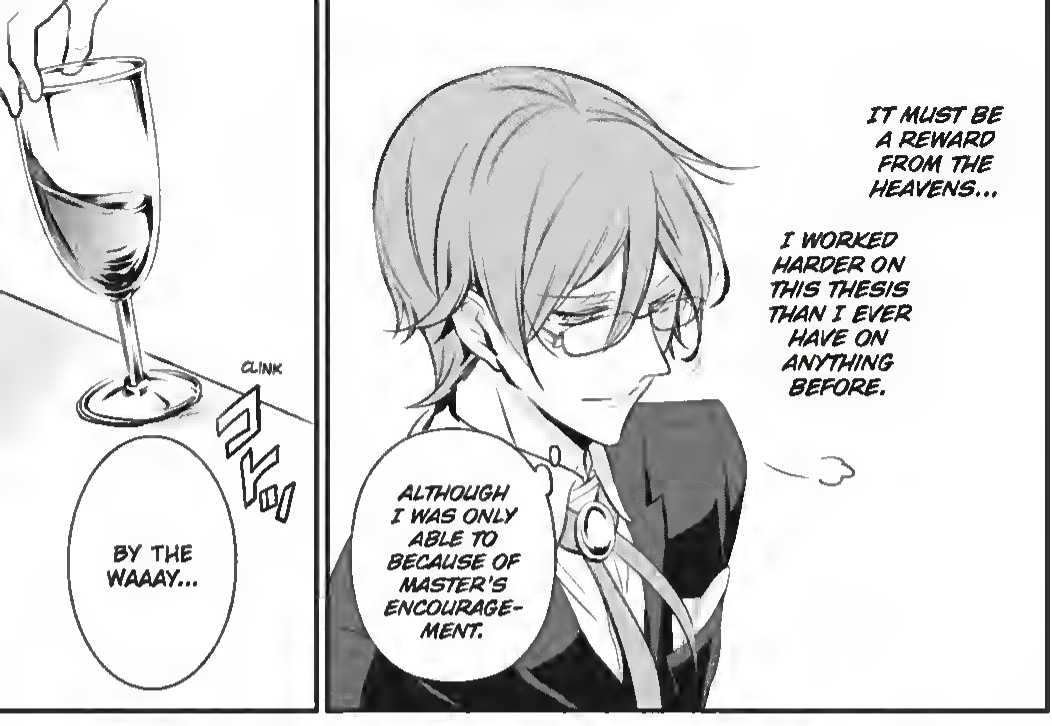
I-IT'S DOCTOR DMITRI...
THE SCHOLAR I RUSHED OFF TO MEET THE VERY MOMENT I HEARD HE WOULD BE AT WIENNER UNIVERSITY...
.....
SWAY
MUST HAVE GIVEN YOU QUITE A START, HEARING THIS STRANGE OLD CODGER SAY YOU'RE A FAN OF HIS!
HAAH...IT CERTAINLY WOULD BE...
GOOD THING YOU RECOGNIZED ME!

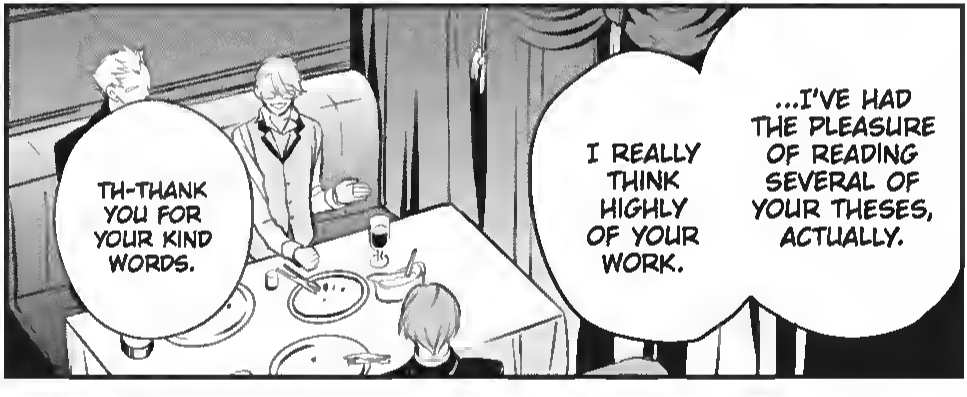
YOU'RE A RUDE FELLOW, STARING.
IS THIS CUSTOMARY IN GRANZ-REICH?
HMPH.
NOW, NOW.
MY, OH MY. THIS OLD MAN IS NOTHING TO LOOK AT. YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH!
HEE HEE!
STARE
THE VERY SAME DOCTOR DMITRI WHOSE RESEARCH I SO RESPECT!?
BUT HE SEEMS... UNEXPECT-EDLY... JOVIAL.
IS IT TRULY HIM...?
Y-YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY... BECAUSE OF ME...!?
MY INTEREST WAS PIQUED, SO I CAME ON DOWN TO LISTEN TO YOUR PRE-SENTATION.
I HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM A FRIEND OF MINE.
WONDERFUL! I ALREADY MADE THE RESERVATIONS.
Y-YES! I WOULD LOVE TO...!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHAT AFTER THIS? OVER A MEAL, MAYBE?
MM-HM, AND YOU DIDN'T DIS-APPOINT.

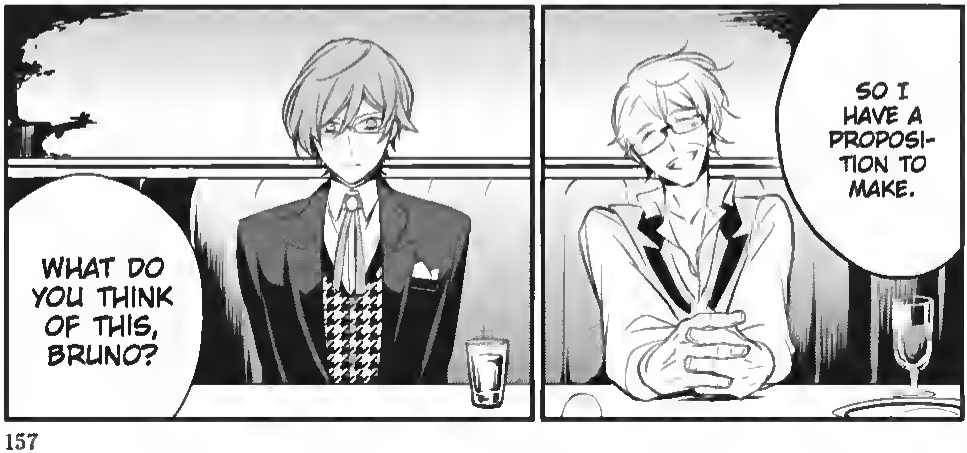
SO, BRUNO...
OH, ABSO-LUTE-LY.
AH HA! H!

HEH HE!
HEH
AND, WE AREN'T HERE TO TALK POLITICS!
WE'RE FOREIGNERS, AFTER ALL.
YOU DON'T MIND THAT I'M NOT ADDRESSING YOU AS "PRINCE," DO YOU?
AH!

I MUST BE DREAMING... I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SITTING HERE, CHATTING WITH DOCTOR DMITRI...
ALBEIT, A VERY DRUNK DOCTOR DMITRI...
"PRINCE BRUNO." IT SOUNDS SO...SO...STIFF! NOW, HOW COULD WE BE FRIENDS LIKE THAT!?
DOCTOR, YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK.


IT MUST BE A REWARD FROM THE HEAVENS...
I WORKED HARDER ON THIS THESIS THAN I EVER HAVE ON ANYTHING BEFORE.
ALTHOUGH I WAS ONLY ABLE TO BECAUSE OF MASTER'S ENCOURAGE-MENT.
CLINK
コトッ
BY THE WAAAY...


...I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF READING SEVERAL OF YOUR THESES, ACTUALLY.
I REALLY THINK HIGHLY OF YOUR WORK.
TH-THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS.


SO I HAVE A PROPOSI-TION TO MAKE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS, BRUNO?

WOULD YOU LEAVE GRANZ-REICH...
...AND COME STUDY UNDER ME TO BECOME A SCHOLAR?
...EH ...?

Chapter 24
To Chase a Dream

LET'S GO HOME, SHALL WE?
GLOOM
PRINCE BRUNO..
NONSENSE. NOT SUCH A POLISHED THESIS.
OH DEAR..
HE HAS AN ESCORT. I AM SURE HE IS SAFE.
COULD IT BE THAT THIS PRESENTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY WAS ILL-RECEIVED?

MY NAME IS ERNST ROSEN-BERG.
I AM EMPLOYED AS PRINCE EINS'S HIGH STEWARD.
ニコッ
SMILE
THIS MAN...
IT SEEMS MY FRIEND JOURNEYED HERE ALL THE WAY FROM OROSZ TO MEET THE PRINCE.
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO TEACHES AT A UNIVERSITY. I'D SPOKEN TO HIM ABOUT PRINCE BRUNO.
IT WAS HE WHO FOUND OUT THAT PRINCE LICHT WAS WORKING IN TOWN.
HE IS THE ONE WHO TOLD VIKTOR...

RATTLE
RATTLE
KCHAK
AH, SPLENDID. HE HAS RETURNED SAFELY.
.....
KREAK
PRINCE BRUNO...
...PRINCE BRUNO...
WELL, I MUST BE AT PRINCE EINS'S RESIDENCE WITHIN THE NEXT HALF HOUR.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.

.....
WOULD YOU LEAVE GRANZ-REICH...
...AND COME STUDY UNDER ME TO BECOME A SCHOLAR?
...EH...?

GLUG
GLUG
NOW, BECOMING A SCHOLAR? IT ISN'T WITHOUT ITS DIFFICULTIES, NO.
BUT IT'S FAR MORE REALISTIC THAN BECOMING KING.
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE KING, CAN'T THERE?
IF YOU HAD ACCESS TO MY CONNECTIONS, TO MY SCHOOL...
...I KNOW YOU'D BECOME A WELL-RESPECTED SCHOLAR.
I-I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS.
HOWEVER, I...
I AM AN HEIR OF THE GRANZREICH ROYAL FAMILY.
OH YES, BUT YOU'RE THE THIRD SON.
I HEAR YOUR ELDEST BROTHER IS AS BRILLIANT AS THEY COME.

YOUR CHANCES OF BECOMING KING...
...ARE NONEX-ISTENT, AREN'T THEY?
.....
SIP
YOU'RE A BRIGHT LAD. I'M SURE YOU'RE WELL AWARE.

HERE. THE ADDRESS OF OUR HOTEL.
FIRST, YOU SHOULD COME VISIT OROSZ. SEE IF YOU LIKE THE PLACE.
WELL, GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT.
WE'RE LEAVING FOR HOME ONE WEEK FROM NOW, IN THE EVENING.
SEND ME WORD BY THEN, AND WE'LL TAKE YOU WITH US, WON'T WE?
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR "YES."
SORRY, BUT WE'VE GOT TO RUN!
W-WAIT, I...

I KNOW.
I KNOW THAT WANTING TO BE KING IS A COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC DREAM.
BUT IT'S NOT SO SIMPLE AS THAT...
I DON'T KNOW...
...WHAT TO DO...

Ack!
TODAY I HAVE A DAAATE WITH ROSANNA AND WITH AMANDA, ETC.
TWIRL
るーん
TWIRL
るーん
NUOOO! BRUNIE'S GOING TO BLOCK ME, THE BRUTE!
BUT IT'S MY DAY OFF OF WOOORK!
SIT! NOW!!
FLITTING ABOUT AGAIN!?
HUH!!?
IGNORE
するーーーん

YOU'D BEST WIPE THAT UP QUICKLY.
GOOD GRIEF, KAI!
NAPKIN... NAPKIN...
DRIP

!!?
する
IGNORE
ん

PAT
PAT

.....
AH! BROTHER!
GOOD NIGHT, O DEAREST BROTHER OF MINE!

I'M HAPPY THOUGH!
?
?
する
IGNORE
ん

TODAY MARKS ONE WEEK. I HAVE UNTIL TONIGHT... TO DECIDE.
I STILL HAVE NOT REACHED A DEFINITIVE ANSWER...
PERHAPS IF THE BREEZE HELPS TO QUIET MY HEART...
...I WILL SEE SOMETHING I DID NOT SEE BEFORE.
DRAAAG
すぅぅぅぅぅぅ——

MAS-TERRR!!
AH, PRINCE BRUNO.
I AM TAKING SIR SHADOW FOR A WALK.
NIBBLE NIBBLE はむはむ
ON THE CONTRARY, I BELIEVE MASTER WAS THE ONE BEING WALKED...
DOGS ARE DARLING, ARE THEY NOT?
PRINCE BRUNO, YOUR MIND HAS BEEN ELSEWHERE THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS.
EVERY-ONE IS CONCERNED ABOUT YOU.
IS SOME-THING ON YOUR MIND?
.....

Y-YES... BUT...
IT IS SOMETHING I MUST DECIDE ON FOR MYSELF.
YES, MOST WORRIES ARE SO.
HOWEVER, EXPRESSING THEM TO OTHERS CAN HELP ORGANIZE ONE'S THOUGHTS.
I WOULD BE GLAD TO LISTEN.
THOUGH I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MUCH ADVICE.
.....
ADMITTING THAT I AM HESITANT ABOUT PURSUING THE THRONE WILL DISAPPOINT MASTER...BUT...
CLENCH
TH-THE TRUTH IS...

BLUNT
けろっ
WHAT A SPLENDID IDEA.
OH MY. A SCHOLAR?
IT SOUNDS LIKE AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY.
STUDYING WITH A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
SO OFFHANDEDLY...!
!!!!
.....
...I HAVE NO REASON TO OBJECT.
AS LONG AS IT IS ADVANTAGEOUS FOR YOU...
B-BUT MASTER, YOU HAVE PUT SO MUCH INTO GROOMING ME INTO A CANDIDATE FOR THE THRONE...

I HAVE STUDIED ALL THIS TIME TO BECOME A KING BECAUSE OF MY LOVE FOR FATHER.
BUT I WONDER IF IT WOULD BE BETTER...FOR THE KINGDOM... FOR MY ACCOMPLISHED BROTHER... THE ELDEST PRINCE...TO BECOME KING.
...I WILL BE HONEST.
I THINK THAT THE SMARTER CHOICE... IS TO TAKE THE ROAD OF A SCHOLAR.
YOUR HIGHNESS IS ACCOMPLISHED HIMSELF.
YOU ARE AN EXCELLENT LEARNER, AND YOUR BROTHERS DEPEND UPON YOU.
YES, BUT...
...THAT IS ONLY BECAUSE...
...I WANTED IT TO BE SO, AND BEHAVED ACCORDINGLY.

I AM NOT A GOOD PERSON.
I HAVE ALWAYS ENVIED OTHERS. I SIMPLY DO NOT LET IT SHOW.
I GROW JEALOUS SO EASILY.
THE TRUTH IS, I AM NOT A BROTHER WORTHY OF LEONHARD'S ADORATION.

SLOUCH
...IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL, THAT YOU ARE AN OLD MAN.
WHA...!?
Y...YES, MASTER.
PRINCE BRUNO...
I'M...
YOU LIE IN YOUR SICKBED AS YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS GRADUALLY FADES.
"IF ONLY I HAD DONE THINGS DIFFERENTLY BACK THEN," YOU THINK.
...YET SUCH REGRETS CANNOT TURN BACK TIME.
YOU HAVE ONLY ONE LIFE TO LIVE, AND IT IS YOURS ALONE.
DO YOU REQUIRE ANY OTHER REASON TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART?

FWSHHH
—IN SHORT...
...IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR RESOLVE.

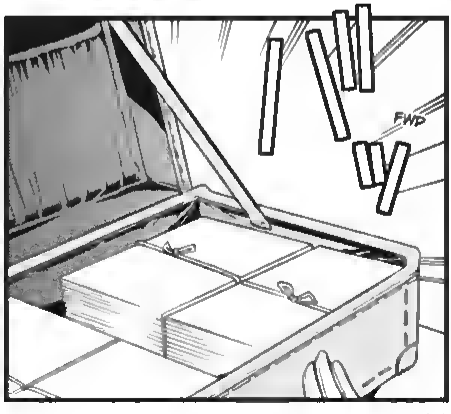
WAIT!
EXCUSE ME.
...I WISH YOU A HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIFE.
WHICH-EVER YOU CHOOSE ...
SPEAKING WITH YOU HAS HELPED ME GATHER MY THOUGHTS.
...THANK YOU.
I WISH TO.....

AH-HA!
YOUNG BRUNO!
YES.
YOU'VE MADE YOUR DECISION, I TAKE IT.
I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WOULDN'T COME!
TMD

...I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER...
...TO VISIT YOUR UNIVERSITY IN OROSZ.

—BUT...
...ONLY AS A FRIEND ONE DAY.

I TRANSCRIBED A COPY OF EACH OF THE THESES I HAVE WRITTEN TO DATE.
IF YOU HAVE THE TIME, I HOPE YOU WILL READ THEM.
OH MY...


FWD

.....
THE NEXT TIME YOU HAPPEN TO VISIT GRANZREICH...
...I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD VISIT THE PALACE TO DISCUSS THEM.
LAD...
...YOU STILL WANT TO BE KING AFTER ALL, DON'T YOU?
HEH.
...YES.
I CANNOT DENY IT.
IT HAS BEEN AND REMAINS MY DREAM, EVER SINCE I WAS SMALL.

...I WANT TO PUT EVERYTHING I HAVE TOWARD THAT CHANCE SO THAT I WILL HAVE NO REGRETS.
BUT SO LONG AS I HAVE A CHANCE, NO MATTER HOW SMALL...
I UNDERSTAND THAT MY CHANCES OF BECOMING KING ARE CLOSE TO ZERO.
YOU ARE NOT INCORRECT.

BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU CAN'T BECOME KING?
HMPH. WHAT SOPHISTRY.

YOU MIGHT NEVER CATCH UP WITH OTHERS YOUR AGE.
YOU MIGHT WELL NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING, FOR ALL YOU KNOW.
IT'LL BE HARDER TO PURSUE ANYTHING ELSE THEN.

"IN SHORT, IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR RESOLVE."

...EVEN IF THE SETBACKS ARE WORSE THAN THOSE WHICH I HAVE ALREADY ENCOUNTERED...
...I WILL OVER-COME.
I AM NOT MY BELOVED FATHER, NOR MY TALENTED BROTHER.
THE FRUSTRATION I HAVE EXPERI-ENCED MYSELF IS PRECISELY WHAT MAY ALLOW ME TO BE OF BETTER AID TO THOSE WHO SUFFER IN OUR KINGDOM.

I HOLD THOSE FEELINGS NEAR TO MY HEART.
I WILL TAKE THE THRONE USING THAT WHICH I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN: HARD WORK.
THIS IS THE STRENGTH OF MY RESOLVE TO FOLLOW MY DREAMS.

.....
WELL, THEN ...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
I SEE I CAN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND.
WE DID WANT TO WORK WITH YOU, YOU KNOW.
D-DOCTOR!
...BUT DEAR SMERDYAKOV HERE IS A FAN OF YOUR WRITING.
HE'S BEEN A MEANIE-POO...
O-OF COURSE.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THIS PLACE WITH THE MOST DELECTABLE BORSCHT.
ANOTHER REASON FOR YOU TO VISIT US IN OROSZ SOON!

BUT METHINKS IT ALSO GARNERED A STANDING OVATION BECAUSE THE AUDIENCE WAS PLEASED AS PUDDING TO KNOW THAT THERE IS SOMEONE AS WISE AS YOU AMONG YOU ROYALS!
YOUR PRESENTATION! THE THESIS ITSELF WAS IMPRESSIVE, OF COURSE.
AH, THAT REMINDS ME!
MAYBE THEY SEE MORE IN YOU...
...THAN YOU THINK!
FABU-LOUS!
WE'LL HAVE A NICE, LONG CHAT WHEN WE MEET AGAIN!
IS THAT SO? YOU HONOR ME WITH YOUR INVITATION.
I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO BRAG THAT I'M FRIENDS WITH A KING ONE DAY!
.....

THANK YOU...!

MASTER ...!

I THOUGHT I HAD BEST KEEP WATCH FOR DANGER ON YOUR WAY.
WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

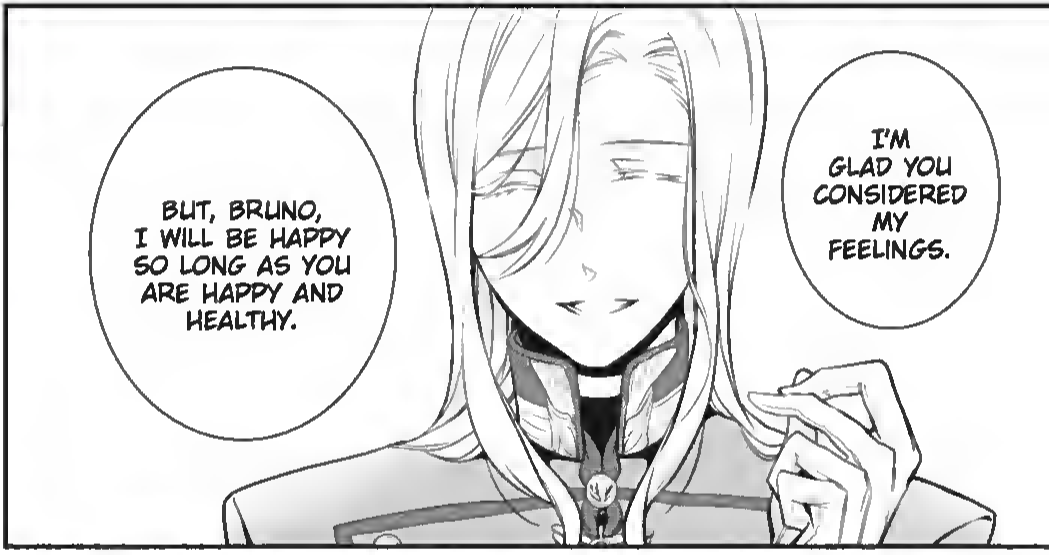
AAAAAH, I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED!
IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE... MORE...!
I DID NOT INTEND TO.
ALL OF IT.
D-DID YOU...HEAR ANY OF THAT...?

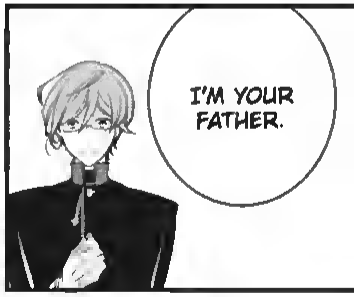
LET US COMBINE OUR EFFORTS...
...TO MAKE YOU INTO A SPLENDID CANDIDATE FOR KING, YES?
BUT BECAUSE I DID, PRINCE BRUNO...
...I TOO MUST ACKNOWL-EDGE AND ACCEPT...
...THE STRENGTH OF YOUR RESOLVE.

...YES, MASTER.
SHWIP
AS BEFORE...
...I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR GUIDANCE!
.....
.....
BUT I INSIST! IN ALL MY LIFE, MASTER, YOU ARE...
NOT FOR LIFE.
I WILL BE YOUR APPRENTICE FOR LIFE!

...PRINCE BRUNO DID NOT GIVE UP ON THE CROWN EITHER, HMM?
IT SEEMS WE WILL HAVE TO MOVE TO ELIMINATE HIM.
THE ROYAL TUTOR, HEINE WITTGEN-STEIN.
YOU WILL FIND OUT WHERE HE CAME FROM.
The Royal Tutor End

AFTERWARD: REPORTING THE MATTER TO FATHER.
OHH... WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN ...?
A-ACTUALLY, SUCH AND SUCH HAPPENED, AND I REJECTED AN OFFER TO STUDY TO BE A SCHOLAR...





SPECIAL THANKS

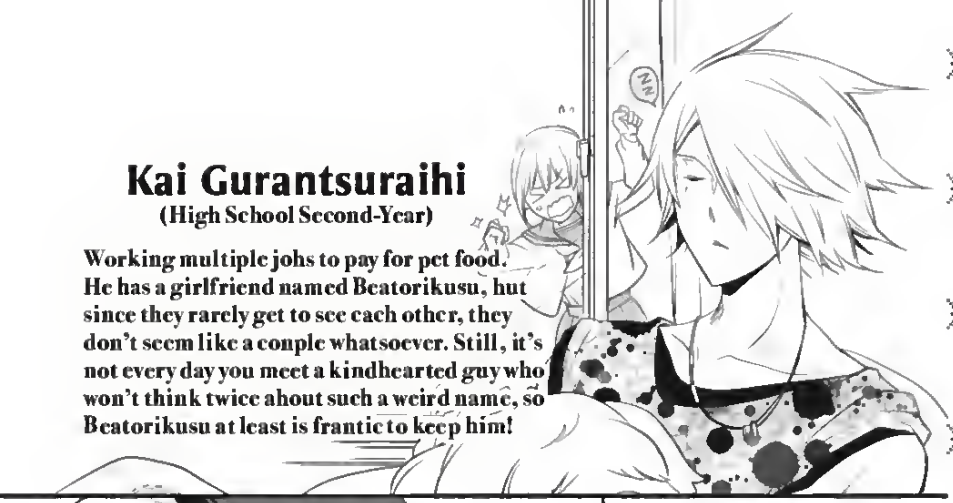
YOSHI KOUJU-SAN, CHIMURA-SAN

MY EDITOR, AKIYAMA-SAN

Beginning October 19, 2015...

READ NEW CHAPTERS OF *THE ROYAL TUTOR*
EVERY MONTH AS THEY ARE RELEASED IN JAPAN!

THE HOME TUTOR
~Character Profiles~



Kai Gurantsuraihi
(High School Second-Year)

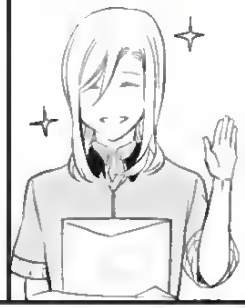
Working multiple jobs to pay for pet food. He has a girlfriend named Beatorikusu, but since they rarely get to see each other, they don't seem like a couple whatsoever. Still, it's not every day you meet a kindhearted guy who won't think twice about such a weird name, so Beatorikusu at least is frantic to keep him!

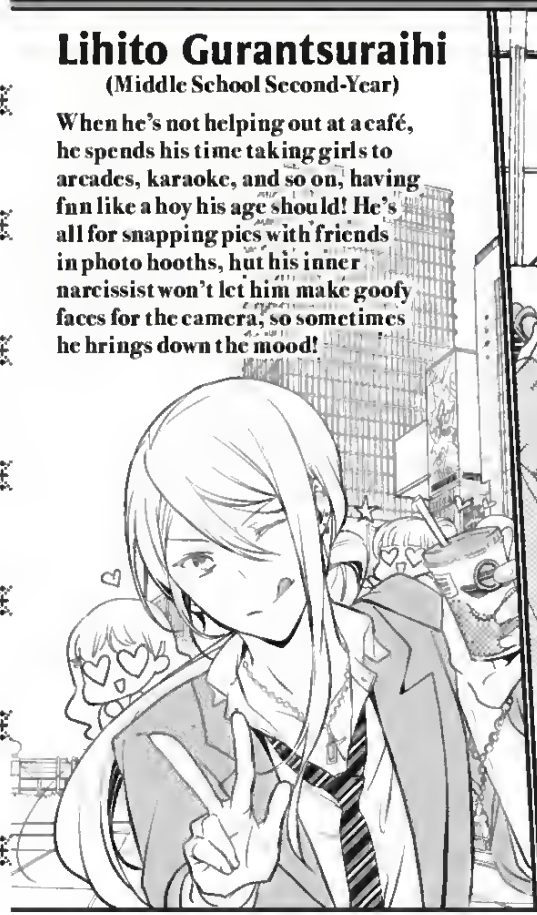
Haine-sensei

The home tutor Dad hires for his four sons! What? He's the only one who hasn't changed? Then, uh, his favorite food is daifuku!

Dad

While he seems to be an author or writer of some sort, he happens to know people in the government...and may actually run the country.





Lihito Gurantsuraihi
(Middle School Second-Year)

When he's not helping out at a café, he spends his time taking girls to arcades, karaoke, and so on, having fun like a boy his age should! He's all for snapping pics with friends in photo booths, but his inner narcissist won't let him make goofy faces for the camera, so sometimes he brings down the mood!

Leonharuto Gurantsuraihi
(Middle School Third-Year)

So dumb that he's in danger of not graduating middle school. He accidentally brought his disaster diary to school, only for his classmates to read it and keep their distance from him—a fact he agonizes over on a daily basis!

Buruuno Gurantsuraihi
(High School First-Year)

A top honors student at a famous prep school! He wants to try to look cool while studying at Starb*cks, so this uncompromising honors kid is starting by memorizing their grimoire of a menu!

Coming Soon!!

(*probably not happening)

Translation Notes

Page 77
Heine's fictional account of his sordid past draws from the name **Arsène Lupin**, a gentlemen thief featured in the novels and short stories of Maurice Leblanc beginning in the early 1900s.

Page 95
In our world, **Prunksaal** is the name of the building in the Hofburg Palace in which the Austrian National Library resides.

Page 160
As **high steward**, Count Ernst would oversee Prince Eins's household—basically, he is the head of Prince Eins's servants.

Page 185
Borscht is a Ukranian soup common in Eastern Europe, traditionally made from meat/bone stock, vegetables, and beetroot juice.

Page 195
Daifuku is a kind of *mochi* (sticky rice cake) with a sweet filling, usually red bean paste.

THE
ROYAL
TUTOR

The Royal Tutor ❹

Higasa Akai

Translation: Amanda Haley • Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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